

'Islamic Jihad does not exist'

BEIRUT (R) — A militant Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim leader was quoted Saturday as saying he did not believe in the existence of the shadowy "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) group credited with a string of Beirut kidnappings and suicide bombings. Hussein Moussawi, leader of the Shi'ite "Islamic Amal" group based in the northeastern town of Baalbek, told a Beirut magazine he believed Islamic Jihad existed only in name. "The Islamic Jihad organisation only exists in statements and in the press," he told *Al Nahar* International and Arab Weekly in an interview. The name "has, perhaps, been used by young believers in confrontation with certain forces, or perhaps certain intelligence agencies sometimes use the name to accomplish a certain aim or serve some of their goals," Moussawi said. He said Islamic Amal was not involved in 15 kidnappings of foreigners in Lebanon this year, many of them claimed by anonymous callers in the name of Islamic Jihad.

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Regent hosts Iftar for trade unionists

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday hosted an Iftar banquet in honour of representatives of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions.

Israelis impose ban on Tulkarem residents

AMMAN (Petra) — Residents of the occupied West Bank city of Tulkarem and of the city's refugees camps were not allowed by the Israeli occupation authorities to cross the Prince Mohammad Bridge into the East Bank of Jordan. The occupation authorities claimed the move was warranted by "security" reasons. The Israelis have imposed the ban on the residents of a number of villages in Tulkarem area for many weeks now after a recent escalation in resistance activities in that area.

Mubarak expects total Israeli pullout

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday he did not expect Israel, now withdrawing troops from South Lebanon, to leave advisers behind. "As far as I know, they are going to withdraw completely from Lebanon," he told reporters. Mr. Mubarak was speaking at Cairo airport after an hour of talks, which he said focused on the Middle East, with Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id of Oman who was on his way home from a private visit to London.

Shultz leaves London after talks

LONDON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz left on Saturday after a short stop-over for talks on the Middle East with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Mr. Shultz, who arrived Friday evening after attending a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation foreign ministers' meeting in Portugal, left London's Heathrow airport on a U.S. air force plane headed for Bermuda.

Hungarians vote in general elections

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungarians voted Saturday in parliamentary and municipal elections under a new law requiring at least two candidates in every seat — a rare choice to the Soviet bloc. Voting is not compulsory, but much pressure is brought on the 7.5 million voters to vote.

Greece condemns N.Cyprus elections

ATHENS (R) — Greece said Saturday that presidential elections in the self-proclaimed Turkish republic of northern Cyprus Sunday would consolidate Cyprus' partition and hamper United Nations efforts to achieve a settlement. Some 94,000 Turkish Cypriots vote in the northern part of the island which Turkish troops overran in their 1974 invasion. Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash is being opposed by two left-wing candidates.

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Amal, SLA deadlocked over release of hostages

Berri seeks return of Israeli-held prisoners; Lahd insists on release of captive militiamen

23 Finnish UNIFIL soldiers remain in captivity

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israel's militia allies in South Lebanon held 23 Finnish United Nations soldiers hostage for the second day Saturday, but the militia chief said some could be freed soon in a gesture of goodwill.

The "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia seized the Finns Friday as bargaining counters for the release of 11 SLA men taken earlier in the day by the Shi'ite Amal militia.

SLA commander Antoine Lahd told reporters on the Israeli side of the border he would not free the Finns until his own men were released. He said he was not prepared to deal with Amal, but he denied the Finns had been threatened with death.

He added: "As proof of my goodwill, I will probably free three or four of the Finnish troops this evening to prove I have nothing in my heart against UNIFIL."

A Finnish diplomat in Beirut asked Amal leader Nabih Berri to free the SLA soldiers and so trigger release of the Finns. Beirut Radio said Mr. Berri set two conditions — that Israel free

Lebanese prisoners moved to Israel earlier this year, or that the SLA withdraw from Jezzine, a mostly Christian town near Sidon which Amal and its other militia allies are poised to attack.

Brigadier Lahd denied that his men had threatened to kill the Finnish hostages.

"No threat has been made and no threat will be made," he said through an interpreter. "It is not the SLA's code of behaviour."

A spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping troops said the SLA had threatened to kill the Finnish soldiers. He said the threat was being taken seriously.

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said that negotiations to free the soldiers were deadlocked because the captured SLA men refused to return to the militia force and their commander would not meet SLA officers.

Negotiations were conducted via the Israelis, who have been working feverishly to prepare the militia to take over a 12 to 20 kilometre wide self-styled "security zone" north of the border.

The SLA, which Israel says numbers 2,000 troops — Western security sources in the south say its strength is more like 500 — has been plagued by desertions recently.

The three-way bargaining came as blue-helmeted soldiers of the U.N. Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) surrounded the village of Qantara where the Finnish troops were being held.

But the U.N. troops made no apparent effort to move in to force the SLA fighters to release their captives. Most of them were troops grabbed in a bus as they headed back to their base from Israel.

The Finns were being held in two groups — 19 in a house near the border and another four in Qantara, eight kilometres from the frontier where U.N. troops surrounded their 70 to 80 SLA captives.

(Continued on page 3)

Casualties mar relief supply to Bourj Al Barajneh camp

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Five children were killed and a United Nations driver and eight other people were wounded Friday as a U.N. convoy delivered supplies to a besieged Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut.

It was the first time militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement allowed food and water into Bourj Al Barajneh after they surrounded the camp three weeks ago.

Austrian Ambassador Georg Zaidaric, who accompanied the convoy, said the children were killed and eight people injured by mortar fire, while the U.N. driver was hit by a sniper's bullet.

The seven-truck convoy, organised by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees, tried to go in Friday but was turned back after a confrontation with Amal fighters and armed women.

Bourj Al Barajneh, where up to 20,000 Palestinians and Lebanese are believed to be trapped, is one of three camps in Beirut's southern suburbs where Amal fighters and units of the Sixth Brigade launched simultaneous attacks on May 19.

Amal men have captured Sabra camp and most of Shatila, but have made little headway against Bourj Al Barajneh in an effort to prevent what they describe as a resurgence of Palestinian military

power. The entry of the supply convoy was delayed 30 minutes as Amal commander Akl Hamiyeh talked by radio and megaphone with the Palestinians to halt heavy exchanges of gunfire.

During the tense negotiations, Amal men fired three mortar bombs into the camp, one of which exploded.

Ambassador Zaidaric, who escorted the convoy of Austrian-donated supplies, later told reporters: "The mortar fired as we were standing outside the camp hit a group of 13 people. It killed five children. We saw the corpses."

"Eight people were severely injured. They urgently need a Red Cross convoy to get them out."

The incident brought casualties in the fighting to nine dead and 21 wounded in the past 24 hours. More than 350 people have been killed and 2,200 wounded since the siege began.

Mr. Zaidaric said the three-week-old siege had imposed severe strain on camp residents. "Everyone's nerves are stretched to the utmost," he declared.

As UNRWA's director in Lebanon, Canadian Robert Gallagher, supervised the unloading of the trucks, a sniper apparently firing from inside the camp hit the driver of a U.N. car parked outside.

The driver was wounded in the

neck. Swiss UNRWA official Edgar Ruegger, two Amal fighters and a Reuters correspondent, who were also in the car, were showered with glass from a shattered car window but unharmed.

The convoy included five trucks with three days' emergency rations for 12,000 people, two water trucks and a two-man medical team to survey health needs.

Mr. Gallagher said 270 sick and wounded people, and 21 with minor injuries, were packed into the camp's single hospital, where most of the supplies were delivered.

Mr. Zaidaric said he saw more than 20 badly wounded people at the hospital, which has only one doctor and lacks anaesthetics.

There was no repeat of Friday's confrontation in which Mr. Zaidaric and Mr. Gallagher were forced at gunpoint by Amal fighters and women to halt the convoy and enter by car to seek the release of their seven relatives from the camp.

Mr. Gallagher said the Palestinians Saturday gave him the names of two of their prisoners, but denied knowledge of the other five.

Journalists were not permitted to accompany the convoy, and Amal fighters seized the film of an UNRWA employee who took photographs during the operation.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday presides over a meeting of the Five-Year-Development Plan Committee (Petra photo)

Regent sets priorities for next five-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday emphasised the importance of drawing up Jordan's next five-year plan with special focus on the economic and social situation in the country and its geographically strategic location.

Addressing a meeting of the Five-Year-Development Plan Committee, the Regent said the 1986-1990 plan should cover all aspects of scope for local, Arab and international investments in Jordan and should provide for a well-planned exploitation of the Jordanian workforce through establishing industries and services based on modern technology. He pointed out that Jordan enjoys a very good potential in this respect.

Also addressing the meeting, which was presided over by Crown Prince Hassan, was Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, who outlined the various stages achieved by the committee in preparing the 1986-1990 five-year plan.

Dr. Nsour said the ministry has finalised a four-part index for the plan, including a part for comprehensive economy, sectoral, provincial and institutional plans and annexes supported by charts, tables and other illustrations.

The committee has worked on the wording of some of the plan's chapters and has drawn up working papers. Dr. Nsour said it has also prepared reports on the characteristics of the national economy.

Iraqis continue air raids, challenge Tehran claims

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Saturday its warplanes continued air raids on Iranian cities and air defences shot down an Iranian plane and challenged a Tehran claim that Iranian forces crossed the Shatt Al Arab waterway in a new ground offensive.

Iran reported an air strike on Baghdad Saturday and claimed its forces killed or wounded hundreds of Iraqi troops in a ground attack on the southern war front Friday night.

The Iranian national news agency IRNA, quoting a military statement, said the "infiltration operation" across the Shatt Al Arab waterway was carried out under cover of dark and backed by heavy shelling. The attack was in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on Iranian cities, the agency said.

Tehran earlier said its warplanes raided Baghdad and destroyed military targets at Al Rasheed airfield southeast of the Iraqi capital.

Yugoslavia denounces Beirut attacks

CAIRO (R) — Yugoslavia's Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic arrived in Egypt Saturday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the Arab-Israeli dispute, Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and the Non-Aligned Movement. He told reporters his talks would bolster cooperation between the two countries on international problems and promote bilateral relations. He said Yugoslavia was concerned about the situation of Palestinians in Lebanon who are "paying a high price for their freedom," adding "we denounce the massacre against them" in south Beirut refugee camps. "Yugoslavia demands the immediate cessation of hostilities against the Palestinian people, who have been struggling for tens of years for freedom and a home of their own," he said.

Arafat appeals to Arab meeting in Tunis

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was due to appeal personally to an emergency Arab League Council meeting here Saturday night to take action to end a three-week-old battle over Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut. A PLO spokesman said.

He told Reuters that Mr. Arafat, who returned from Amman early Saturday, was expected to call for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia from the Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps.

The emergency session of the 21-member Arab League was requested by the PLO when the battle over the camps first erupted, but Syrian and Lebanese opposition has delayed it.

An Arab League spokesman said nine member states, including Syria, were sending foreign ministers to the meeting.

Other foreign ministers attending were from Iraq, North Yemen, Morocco, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Algeria and Saudi Arabia. Acting Foreign Minister Hazem Nuseibeh represented Jordan.

The spokesman said other member states were sending their Arab League permanent representatives. It was not known whether, or at what level, Lebanon was to be represented.

Mr. Arafat has accused Amal of taking part in a massacre of 120 civilians in the Sabra camp and in Bourj Al Barajneh in west Beirut.

"We will be asking the Arab League not only to condemn those who took part in these massacres, but also to form a committee to investigate who is responsible," the spokesman, Ahmad Abdul Rahman, said.

He added that the PLO was also to present a memorandum to the meeting on the Beirut fighting.

Although the meeting was being held at foreign minister level, Mr. Arafat was addressing the council because the PLO had requested the meeting and because it was vital to Palestinian interests, Abdul Rahman said.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO Political Department, was heading the PLO delegation at the meeting, he added.

Abdul Rahman said Mr. Arafat would inform the meeting of the dangerous and explosive situation in Lebanon and "the conspiracy to expel Palestinians from the region."

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Nibzi said the attacks on the refugee camps were without justification.

Mr. Nibzi said in a speech at the meeting that the Palestinian cause was one for all Arabs, not just the Palestinians.

Mr. Nibzi went to Beirut two weeks ago and discussed the fighting with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

"...I considered it my duty to go to Beirut at the height of the fighting to reaffirm on the spot... that there is absolutely no justification for what has occurred..." he said.

Arafat praises Jordan

Before his departure from Amman Friday night, Mr. Arafat expressed his gratitude and that of the PLO Executive Committee to His Majesty King Hussein's commitment to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and Jordan's commitment to an international peace conference attended by all parties including the PLO.

Mr. Arafat said both the Jordanian and the Palestinian delegations to the Tunis meeting were in full coordination and agreement.

He said one of the items on the Tunis agenda was a request for an Arab summit meeting.

In Kuwait, Dr. Habash said Saturday his group would continue to fight the "military massacres" at Beirut Palestinian camps.

Thatcher supports peace moves

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said Britain supports the new momentum achieved by Jordan in efforts for a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem but has reservations over the proposal for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mrs. Thatcher, who held separate talks with His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Friday, pledged support for negotiations to settle the Palestinian problem and said: "Really the two sides have to get together... they will of course, in doing that, have the support of many countries, the United States to most of all, ourselves and, I would have thought, most of the European Community."

The British prime minister, talking to reporters after her 90-minute meeting with Mr. Shultz, said Britain was "not very keen on an international conference because we think it might complicate things."

She said the next step in efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict was to select Palestinians to be part of a joint delegation with Jordan for peace talks. "I hope that Israel would accept that idea," she said.

The British leader said many Israelis would be "relieved" by such negotiations. "They have lived with the situation for a very long time and I think many of them would like it settled," she said.

Mrs. Thatcher told reporters she believed Palestinians could be found "who can come together with King Hussein as responsible people representing the Palestinian people to negotiate with Israel."

Mr. Shultz, who flew from Estoril, Portugal, following a NATO foreign ministers meeting, said there were interim steps that could be taken before such direct negotiations could begin. But he did not spell them out.

Asked if she had passed on a message from King Hussein to Mr. Shultz, Mrs. Thatcher replied: "We have a very, very fruitful triangular relationship going."

Mr. Shultz was originally scheduled to meet with the prime minister for just a half hour. When their talks stretched well beyond that, he ended up being late for a dinner with U.S. chiefs of mission from Europe.

Earlier Friday, Mrs. Thatcher met with King Hussein for 75 minutes. Also at the meeting were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, and Richard Luce, the British Foreign Office official in charge of Mideast affairs.

A Thatcher aide, who declined to be identified, told the AP the talks concerned King Hussein's "peace initiative to bring about an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and included discussion of the outcome of his recent visit to Washington."

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Gulf war to continue, Omani minister says

MUSCAT (R) — Oman believes the conflict between Iran and Iraq is so complex that the Gulf war is bound to go on, possibly for another five years, its minister of state for foreign affairs said in an interview published Saturday.

"There are so many complications that it is inevitable that it will continue," Youssef bin Alawi bin Abdullah told the government newspaper Oman.

He said political attempts to end the war were paralysed and it was unlikely the conflict could be settled on the battlefield for five years or more.

"Unless there is an effective international effort and a true international desire to end this war, then we see no end to this war in at least the next five years," he added.

Asked if he thought a high-level peace delegation from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) could help bring Iran and Iraq together, Mr. Alawi said: "I don't think there's any call for the (next GCC) summit to take an initiative of that kind."

Heads of state of GCC members Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United

Arab Emirates will hold their annual summit in Muscat in November.

Mr. Alawi said Gulf states should take tighter security precautions to prevent foreign saboteurs entering the region.

He said "terrorist elements", taking advantage of Gulf tolerance, were acting in the area under the pretext of earning a living.

He said any leniency would lead to further subversive acts, apparently a reference to an abortive attempt on the life of the Emir of Kuwait on May 25 and two recent bomb explosions in Saudi Arabia.

Oman welcomed visitors from other Gulf states but would not simplify or abolish its visa requirements, Mr. Alawi added.

Oman is the only Gulf country to allow unrestricted entry by citizens of the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

The minister said a delay in the long-awaited exchange of ambassadors between Oman and South Yemen was due to "routine procedures".

Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman said earlier this year he expected the exchange to take place before the end of April.

Mr. Alawi said there was no link between the normalisation of relations with formerly hostile Yemen and the long-standing border dispute between the two south Arabian states.

He said the border question was extremely complicated and some technical aspects need detailed discussion by both sides.

The latest round of border talks was held in Muscat last January. Mr. Alawi said Oman was studying South Yemeni invitation to build the next round in Aden.

He said he had accepted an invitation to visit Aden and hoped to go there this summer.

Oman and South Yemen established diplomatic relations in 1982 after 15 years of hostility, mainly due to Aden's support for an insurgency in Oman's province of Dhofar.



CAPTIVES LINED UP: Militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement in Beirut, South Lebanon, line up 11 men of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army they captured in South Lebanon on Friday (AP wirephoto)

Kuwait faces delicate task of balancing security, democracy

By Ian MacKenzie
Reuters

KUWAIT — The Kuwaiti government faces a delicate task of balancing security needs and democracy in the wake of last month's assassination bid on the country's ruler.

The government has pledged to tighten security in cooperation with the National Assembly (parliament) in a move to prevent further terrorist activity.

But Kuwaitis are also proud of their young but growing tradition of liberation and parliamentary democracy, which they say needs careful nurturing before it reaches full bloom.

Kuwait has the only elected parliament among the Gulf Arab states and has developed a tradition of political criticism absent throughout most of the Middle East.

The May 25 car bomb attack against the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, stunned the country. The Emir escaped with minor cuts, but five other people including the bomber died.

A series of bomb blasts shook Kuwait in December 1983, leaving six people dead and more than 80 injured.

Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah warned two days after the latest incident that security measures might have to take precedence over liberal ways.

Regional security

"These measures may force us to sacrifice (liberal) ways we have become used to in secure times... but we must remember that luxury may cost us dear and cause us to lose irrevocably our security, stability and interests," he said.

On Wednesday, he announced a meeting of foreign ministers of Gulf Arab countries to coordinate regional security, and warned: "We have declared and declare again our rejection of threats and blackmail."

"The government will continue its iron-fist policy... the period of leniency is over."

While security is tightened, some Kuwaitis and diplomats here believe public reaction to the assassination bid showed that the Emir has the affection of his people and that the liberal trend should continue.

Ahmad Al Khateeb, a government critic who heads a so-called "democratic group" in the 50-seat National Assembly, believes the attack had this effect.

"Everyone is happy to be safe," Mr. Khateeb told Reuters.

"If there was any doubt in his mind about how people feel towards him, this has dispelled it, and we hope the (ruling Al Sabah) family will understand and let democracy develop smoothly."

New security plans

New security plans are expected primarily to tighten control of the expatriate community, with further expulsions of illegal residents.

Senior Kuwaitis have already commented on the abuse of residence and work permits, calling for Kuwaitis to set their own house in order.

The government started tightening controls after the 1983 bombings, with work permits issued to other Arab nationals dropping drastically.

Statistics gathered by the National Bank of Kuwait show that the number of work permits issued for the first time to Arab nationals dropped from 31,379 in 1983 to only 3,909 in the first nine months of 1984.

"The government has closed the door and windows, and are looking now at how to cut out our house in order to keep law and order in the country," a Kuwaiti analyst said.

Kuwait blamed the 1983 explosions on the banned Iraqi Al Dawa Al Islamiya (Islamic Call) Movement, which wants an Iranian-style regime in Iraq.

But a top security official, Interior Ministry Under-Secretary Yusuf Bader Al Khafri told Reuters it was "difficult to say" who lay behind the assassination attempt.

The Emir, meanwhile, has gone to visit the Muslim holy places of Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage on his first trip outside Kuwait since his narrow escape from death.

Kuwait had an elected parliament for 19 of the 24 years since it received independence from Britain. But the franchise covers only 3.7 per cent of the population, restricting the vote to some native Kuwaiti males over age 21.

The break in parliament came when the Emir dissolved the assembly in 1976 after political infighting paralysed its work.

Minority in Kuwait

A senior Western diplomat commented: "In the first two days, people were saying we must do something strong, but then they said let's not infringe on our liberal traditions."

But political analysts say a liberal spirit in Kuwait is also constrained by the political realities of the region.

"We have to take into account what other Gulf countries are doing, we can't go too far in advance," one Kuwaiti analyst said.

He noted that the latest figures show Kuwaitis make up only 40 per cent of the population of 1.7 million. "They (the government) don't want to introduce more liberal measures until the Kuwaitis in the population are more in control."

Kuwait, like other Gulf Arab states, depends heavily on a foreign workforce, primarily from Asia, centred on the construction industry.

The drop in world oil prices and after effects of a multi-billion dollar 1982 stock market crash have also slowed the economy and cut job prospects.

Kuwait has had an elected parliament for 19 of the 24 years since

Hostage drama highlights Israeli pullout problems

By David Rogers
Reuters

TEL AVIV — The seizure of Finnish U.N. troops in South Lebanon underlines the dilemma facing Israel in extricating itself from the three-year-old Lebanese war.

Israel had pledged to withdraw its invasion army from South Lebanon this week, but delayed the operation. No official reason was given.

Newspapers and Western experts said it was apparently a case of last-minute alarm over the ability of the militia which calls itself the South Lebanon Army (SLA) to act as Israel's policeman in the border zone.

The SLA, a predominantly Christian militia financed, trained and equipped by Israel, has been designated a large role in Israel's plans to guard its border from commando attack after the army leaves.

In Israeli soldiers in the field, the SLA has always been a joke. "The SLA couldn't capture a cripple," soldiers would tell visiting correspondents.

The government had hoped that with covert support from Israeli military advisors and plainclothes agents, the militia would be a useful tool. But two incidents in the last 10 days have raised fears that the SLA is disintegrating.

First, there was the apparent defection of 28 SLA men to the Shi'ite Muslim organisation Amal. Initial reports said the 28 had been captured after being surprised by Amal gunmen who drove up to a roadblock in an ambulance.

Later, Israeli defence sources confirmed that not a single shot had been fired and tacitly acknowledged it had been a mass defection.

The 28 were reported to be Shi'ites. Israel has encouraged the SLA's Falangist leader, Antoine Lahd, to recruit more Shi'ites to

make the militia more representative of the largely Shi'ite population of South Lebanon.

On Friday, another 11 SLA men went missing. The militia claimed they had been captured by Finnish soldiers of the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL) and took Finnish hostages in reprisal.

But the U.N. said it was Amal who took the 11 SLA soldiers. The Israelis put SLA strength at around 2,000. But Western security sources in South Lebanon say only a hard core of 450 to 500 could be relied on to fight with skill or loyalty.

These are mostly oldsmen recruited by the militia's former commander, the late Saad Haddad, a renegade Lebanese army officer who set up the force at Israel's behest in 1978.

Arabic-speaking Israeli instructors have been running a crash training programme for the SLA, including exercises in World War II-vintage Sherman tanks.

At the same time, the SLA is trying to hold the strategic Christian hilltown of Jezzine, hemmed in on three sides by opposition militias.

Jezzine is north of the self-declared security belt Israel has set up along its border and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said his troops will not help the SLA in operations there.

Tension with the U.N. force, which claims the right to stop and search militia patrols, has created further problems for the thinly-stretched SLA.

Correspondents touring the area report numerous Israeli soldiers stationed there despite Prime Minister Shimon Peres' pledge to withdraw the army before last week's anniversary of the invasion.

Even after army units are pulled out, experts in Israel say the plight of the SLA will clearly necessitate the indefinite presence of hundreds of other Israeli troops to watch over the border zone.

Greek Cypriot Communists hold anti-government rally

NICOSIA (R) — Thousands of supporters of the Greek Cypriot Communist Party AKEL, have turned out in central Nicosia for a peaceful mass demonstration against the policies of the divided island's president, Spyros Kyprianou.

Addressing the crowd, AKEL leader Euzikias Papadogiannou, whose party was formerly allied with Mr. Kyprianou, demanded that the president accept a parliamentary censure against his handling of negotiations with Turkish Cypriots or call new elections.

"The political crisis in Cyprus can only be overcome... if the president accepts the decision of the parliamentary majority Mr. Papadogiannou said.

"That the people decide means above all that the sovereign Cypriot people must have the final word," he added.

Mr. Kyprianou was censured by parliament in February over his handling of failed United Nations-sponsored talks with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş which aimed at reunifying Cyprus.

Mr. Denktaş declared the northern third of Cyprus independent in 1983, nine years after it was invaded and occupied by Turkey, only Ankara has recognised the new state.

Turkish Cypriots vote on Sunday for the first president of their breakaway state and Mr. Denktaş is favoured to win.

In December, Mr. Kyprianou scrapped an election pact with AKEL which had provided him with 34 per cent of his winning 56 per cent result in the 1983 presidential election.

Both AKEL and the equally powerful right-wing Rally Party, former bitter rivals, say Mr. Kyprianou no longer has a mandate to negotiate on the reunification of Cyprus.

Swareddahab arrives in Jeddah for pilgrimage

BAHRAIN (R) — Sudan's military ruler, General Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, arrived in the Saudi Arabian Red Sea port of Jeddah Saturday on his first visit to the kingdom since he ousted President Jaafar Numeiri in an April 6 coup.

The official Saudi Press Agency said Gen. Swareddahab was expected to perform the minor Muslim pilgrimage during his visit, but it made no mention of whether he would meet King Fahd or other Saudi officials.

Official sources in Khartoum said two days ago Gen. Swareddahab was expected to visit Saudi Arabia, one of Sudan's biggest aid donors, at the invitation of the Saudi monarch.

He has already sent envoys to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to seek urgent aid to cope with famine and a debt-ridden economy.

Half of Sudan victims

Nearly half Sudan's 22 million people are now victims of drought and the death rate from famine is creeping steadily higher, relief workers say.

Children are suffering most, while American grain and other food aid has piled up on the docks at Port Sudan and cannot be moved fast enough to remote areas because of poor road and rail links, they report.

Brian O'Neill, an Irish adviser for a new European Community relief scheme, said eight million Sudanese were now suffering from the drought. The United Nations office in Khartoum says the figure may be 10 million.

Gen. Swareddahab has said a million children may starve to death and malnutrition may permanently harm many more.

The threat is greatest in the vast Western province of Darfur, where Al Fashir is located, closer to the Chad border than to Port Sudan, 1,000 kilometres away, Mr. O'Neill said.

"Darfur needs 1,000 tonnes of grain a day," he said. "They only receive 250 tonnes a day..."

Lack of organisation

The grain comes from the United States. The Europeans, under a scheme set to cost \$70 million this year, have just started airlifting 350 tonnes of high protein foods every day for those most in danger in Darfur — children, pregnant women, the old and sick.

Mr. O'Neill said there were about 250,000 tonnes of food at Port Sudan, on the Red Sea, "but due to lack of an infrastructure, no proper organisation and anarchy the foodstuffs are not being efficiently transported to the needy."

He said pilots in the Community air fleet were working 16 hours a day to fly in as much as possible before rain turns roads into quagmires and hampers relief work. The first showers in seven years fell on northern Darfur two weeks ago.

A truck from Port Sudan can take 10 days to get here with luck, said Gunther Myer, 32, a West German Red Cross worker.

He said perhaps 20 or 30 people were dying daily in northern Darfur, where some 150,000 people were drought victims.

Rabin: Israel to arm, train SLA

NEW YORK (AP) — Israel Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said that his country will arm and train Falangist forces in Lebanon, and redeploy troops on a temporary basis if that is deemed necessary to protect Israel or the security zone it has set up in southern Lebanon.

The withdrawal of Israeli troops after a bloody, three-year occupation does not mean Israel is leaving the Falangist dominated South Lebanon Army to fend for itself, Mr. Rabin said.

"We are going to back these forces, to train them, to arm them," Mr. Rabin said in a speech to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"If Israeli positions are attacked in the zone or the country itself, Israeli troops will 'go there' (Lebanon) to do the job and come back."

The leader of the Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim militia, Nabih Berri, has said such attacks would be made if Israel kept troops in Lebanon or tried to maintain positions outside its border.

Mr. Rabin said he hoped "the principle of live and let live will prevail on both sides of the border."

On improved relations with Jordan, Mr. Rabin said he favoured direct talks, but he repeated his opposition to negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

15:00 Koran
15:20 Cartoons
15:45 Religious Programme
16:00 Children's Programme
16:25 Contest for Children
16:35 Cooking Programme
16:55 Religious Programme
17:25 Folk Songs
17:40 Arabic Series
18:25 Religious Programmes
19:45 Prayers
20:00 News in Arabic
20:45 Programme Review
21:00 Contests
21:25 Arabic Series
22:00 Arabic Varieties
22:30 Tomatoes Programme (local)
22:50 Social Programme (local)
23:00 Poetry
23:10 News in Arabic
23:15 Arabic Series
23:55 Religious Programme

FOREIGN CHANNEL

16:00 Live transmission from Paris: Tunisian film
17:30 French varieties: Le grand échiquier
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Comedy: Allo Allo
21:10 History of Television
22:00 News in English
22:20 Funder of lost love — Eps. 1

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session Cont.
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Pop Session Cont.
13:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Science Report
14:30 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Jazz Hour

15:00 Newsdesk
15:20 Desert with a Star
15:40 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont.
21:25 News Summary
21:50 Evening Show Cont.
22:00 News Summary
22:57 News Headline
24:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Land of a Thousand Dances 07:45 Financial Review 07:55 Reflections 08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Kicking up the Sand 08:45 Letter from America 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Jazz for the Aching 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 Hunger 10:30 Hunger 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 The Pleasure's Yours 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 Sports Review 12:45 The Pleasures of Sex 13:00 From Our Own Correspondent 13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:09 News About Britain 14:15 From Our Own Correspondent 14:30 News Summary 14:39 24 Hours: News Summary 15:00 The Beatles 15:00 Radio 15:30 News 15:39 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Copycat 16:45 The Tony Mynar Request Show 17:00 News Summary 17:30 The Kibitz Session 18:00 Radio 18:09 24 Hours: News Summary 18:30 World News 18:39 Concert Hall 19:00 The Cote: First European News 19:45 Letter from America 20:00 World News 20:09 Religious Service 20:15 Market 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Tom Wals' America 22:00 News Summary: Recording of the Week 22:15 The Chosen 22:30 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30 Sunday Half-Hour

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260, KHz, 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 12510

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 06:30 News Summary/VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 07:30 News Summary/VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Focus 08:30 News Summary/VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 VOA Morning 09:30 News Summary/VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 News Horizons and News Products 10:30 Music USA 10:50 News 11:10 International Viewpoints 11:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Critic's Choice 20:30 Issues in the News 21:00 News 21:10 Focus

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

* An exhibition on famous German composers (Heinrich Schütz, Johann Bach, George Handel) at the Goethe Institute.

CINEMA

* "La communion solennelle" at 7:45 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM

* "The Shooters" at 5:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

VIDEO

* "Video Dance" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 644371
American Centre Library Tel. 641520
British Council Tel. 6361478
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009
Goethe Institute Tel. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644205
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 659777
Haya Arts Centre Tel. 6671816
Husseini Youth City Tel. 641793
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 642511
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 637111
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

Polk Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 16th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Chapel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabel

Luwelidat. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lines Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.

Lines Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m.

News Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.

Restary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2:00 p.m.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdi. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman. 623583.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafiah. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafiah. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafiah. 771751.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational) near Southern Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smith), Tel: 811285.

PRAYER TIMES

03:47 Fajr
05:28 Sunrise
12:35 Dhuhr
16:16 Asr
19:43 Maghreb
21:23 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 5320095, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

18:15 Agaba (RJ)
18:20 Berlin, Larnaca (RJ)
18:30 Kuwait (RJ)
18:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:40 Cairo (RJ)
18:40 Jeddah (RJ)
18:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ, MEA)
11:45 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
15:20 Larnaca, Beirut (RJ)
1

National shipping company registers 13 per cent increase in net profits

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In spite of the global economic recession and its direct negative impact on shipping in general, the Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNL) registered a 13 per cent increase in net profits in 1984, thanks mostly to government support for the only Jordanian-owned shipping line.

The JNL chalked up a net profit of JD 500,000 in 1984 as against JD 442,000 in 1983, and hopes to maintain its growth and expand in the coming years, says Ahmad Ismail, financial manager of the line, which owns four vessels.

How could JNL hold up against the impact of the recession and the fierce competition that it brought in and still make a profit? "I guess we owe a lot to government support as reflected in an order issued in May 1983 which instructed all ministries, government departments and undertakings to give priority to JNL for their shipping needs," Mr. Ismail explained. "We were facing intense competition and steadily declining freight rates. In addition, business in general was bad last year," he added.

In fact, he said, four of 13 competitors of JNL were forced to go out of business in the South Europe-Aqaba route, on which two JNL vessels operate as general cargo carriers — the 13,750-ton deadweight each Mu'ta and Badr.

In addition to the two vessels, which normally call at Antwerp, Bremen, Sheerness and Zeebrugge, and occasionally at Lisbon, JNL owns two other ships — the 21,000-ton deadweight bulk carriers Hiteen and Karameh which are currently operated by a Norwegian firm, Jepsens, under a seven-year charter agreement. All the four JNL vessels are Jordanian-registered and fly the Jordanian flag.

A total of 70 seamen work with JNL in the Mu'ta and Badr, the bulk of them from the Philippines,

Mr. Ismail said. Senior officers on deck are Germans, he said. Twenty-one Jordanians are undergoing training aboard the two diesel-run ships as officers and 17 as junior officers, he added. He pointed out that the figure compares with 11 in 1983 and five in 1982.

"We are planning to sell the Mu'ta and the Badr in the next two years and replace them with modern equipped vessels," Mr. Ismail said in reply to a question on the immediate expansion plans of JNL. "The two ships will have expired the 15-year-life as stipulated in the Lloyd's register by then," he explained.

Far East route

Noting that the volume of goods coming into Jordan from the Far East is significantly high, Mr. Ismail said a route from Far Eastern ports such as Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea was one of the immediate projects under consideration. He expressed high hope that the new line will significantly boost JNL business.

Apart from operating the South Europe-Aqaba route, JNL also manages the Al Mabrouk ferry boat between Aqaba and Nuweiba in Egypt on behalf of the Jordanian government.

Commenting on reports that the ferry boat operations, which include one trip to and from Nuweiba, were resulting in losses, Mr. Ismail said: "It's only natural that we have to expect less-than-full-capacity business in the beginning. However, the situation is improving fast and we expect much better results by the end of this year."

JNL was set up in 1976 as a JD two million-capital private company and in 1982 it was expanded to represent larger public sector investment. The capital was raised to JD 7 million and the share price was brought down to JD 1 per share from JD 10.

Shareholders

The major shareholders of JNL include the Social Security Corporation (17 per cent share), the Arab Potash Company (10 per cent), the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (10 per cent), the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (10 per cent), the Aqaba Ports Corporation (10 per cent), the Pension Fund (6.5 per cent), the Postal Savings Fund (6.5 per cent) and the Jordanian government (5.5 per cent).

A 12-member board of directors, made up of one representative each of the eight major shareholders and four from the rest, is in charge of JNL's management, which maintains its headquarters in Amman, where 30 administrative personnel are employed, and an office in Aqaba where some 35 people are working.

In addition to its actual shipping operations, JNL also maintains a separate division as an agency for shipping and clearance, which, according to Mr. Ismail, is expanding rapidly. Mr. Ismail pointed out that the agency handled about 45 ships docking at Aqaba last year.

Apparently, the close cooperation extended by the Aqaba Ports Authority in handling and giving priority to ships handled by the JNL agency is behind the success of the shipping line's operations as an agent.

Major customers of JNL include the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Jordan Valley Authority, the Jordan Armed Forces, the Natural Resources Authority, the three Jordanian universities and various government departments. In addition, the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Potash Company and several other leading exporters of bulk cargo from Jordan have entrusted JNL with their shipping operations.

Free Zones Corporation introduces exemptions, incentives for industry

AMMAN (Petra) — The Free Zones Corporation has circulated a decision issued by the rules interpretation bureau on the provisions of the corporation's laws to directors of the free zones and investors in all commercial and industrial investment sectors.

Under the new decision, all profits of a project will be exempt from income tax and social service taxes for a period of 12 years starting from the year of estimation, which follows the beginning of production, or operating the commercial investment project, according to the actual situation. Profits obtainable as a result of commercial storage of goods allocated for local consumption will

be excluded from the exemption. All salaries and allowances of non-Jordanians working in the projects will also be exempted from income and social service taxes.

Goods especially imported for the free zones or exported therefrom, but which are not allocated for local consumption, will be exempt from all import fees and customs duties and all other fees and taxes, except services fees and wages. Buildings and other constructions built within the free zone area will also be exempted from licensing fees and land and building taxes, according to the decision.

The decision also allows for the

transfer of invested capital and its profits to any place outside the Kingdom, in accordance with the provisions and rules in force in Jordan.

The decision also exempts industrial products in the free zones when such products are for local consumption, from all customs duties at a rate equivalent to that of their production costs. The value of such items will be assessed by a committee headed by the director general of his deputy, a representative of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and a representative of the Ministry of Finance and Customs to be designated by the concerned minister.

Thatcher supports new moves

(Continued from page 1)

While in Washington, King Hussein discussed with President Reagan his plan for negotiating peace through an international conference, with Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) acting under the same diplomatic umbrella.

On Thursday, Mrs. Thatcher met in London with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and was reported to have disagreed sharply with his refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

Mr. Shamir later said Mrs. Thatcher supported Israel's rejection of an international conference, but he confirmed there were disagreements on other matters. Mr. Shamir said Friday he was in favour of preliminary talks between Israel and Jordan to determine the modalities of the participation of Palestinian Arabs in eventual Middle East peace negotiations.

He was talking to reporters after a 30-minute meeting with his French counterpart Roland Dumas. Mr. Shamir repeated his opposition to any contact with the PLO and said he was ready to take part in direct negotiations with Jordan without prior conditions.

Amal, SLA deadlocked

(Continued from page 1)

Goksel told Reuters correspondent John Kobut that officers visited the group of 19 and saw they were being "well taken care of."

Asked about Lahd's remarks Goksel said: "If Lahd wants to talk about anything with us we can discuss it after our men are released... we don't start cooperation with threats and hostage-taking."

In New York, U.N. officials declined comment while bargaining continued on the ground.

The confrontation is part of a struggle for control of a border strip Israel wants to leave under SLA command as it withdraws its own troops after a three-year occupation.

Lebanon and the U.N. want Lebanese troops and UNIFIL, which has been in Lebanon since 1978, to have control down to the border. There has been friction between UNIFIL and the SLA in areas where the border strip overlaps U.N.-held territory to the north.

Israel has handed the 'security' strip to the SLA, which it trains, equips and pays, and is backing it with new village militias and some of its own troops still in the border zone (See page 2). Lebanon and the U.N. regard the militias as illegal and want UNIFIL and Lebanese troops to take control down to the Israeli border.

Attacks by Lebanese resistance men on the SLA from UNIFIL

areas and desertions by SLA men have raised tension and Israel fears that the militia may break up. Israeli officials say they will back the SLA, and have postponed Israel's withdrawal from the border strip promised for June 6.

Goksel said Israel had promised to help free the Finnish troops if it was assured the missing SLA men were well treated.

An Israeli military source Friday blamed UNIFIL for the loss of the 11 SLA men, calling it "a very serious initiative by U.N. forces."

A Finnish officer told Kobut this was untrue: "The SLA thought we were helping their men leave their posts at Qantara. This was incorrect. These men had gone off on their own."

The SLA originally seized 24 Finns, but freed two officers to take their demands to UNIFIL. One returned to captivity Friday night, Goksel said.

Mr. Berri announced conditions for releasing the SLA men "captured in an heroic operation" after he met with Finnish diplomats in Beirut.

He said he would only order them freed in return for the "release of all remaining prisoners in (the Israeli prison camp of) Adit, among them the hero Neeme Hashem... and if Israel and its followers withdraw immediately from the Jezzine area and hand it over to Lebanese army."

Promoting sports for the handicapped

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Founded in December 1981, the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped based its principles on the recommendations issued by the Jordan National Committee that same year upon marking the "International Year of the Handicapped". It is supported by both the Ministries of Social Development and Youth and Culture, as well as by other private and governmental institutions.

The federation aims to develop sports and recreation for the handicapped with all types of disabilities as well as promoting the Olympic principles of sportsman ship, unity and friendship. Sports and recreation are, in fact, essential activities in the life of a handicapped individual, contributing greatly to his or her health and morale, ensuring him or her a more active and productive life and encouraging their integration within the community.

Games for the handicapped

As a member of the International Stoke Mandeville Games Federation since 1982, the federation ensured the participation of the Jordan national team in the Stoke Mandeville games held in the United Kingdom in both 1982 and 1983 where several silver and bronze medals were won.

The national team also participated in the seventh World Wheelchair Games held in the United Kingdom in the summer of 1984 where again they were awarded silver and bronze medals, and to the Arab Championship for the Sports for the Disabled held in Kuwait in March 1985. At these games, the national team came in second place after the team from Kuwait.

Within Jordan, the most important sporting event organised by the federation last year was the first "Games of the Sports for the Handicapped", which was held at the University of Jordan stadium on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein last November. The federation has planned the second tournament of

this kind for the same occasion this year.

The federation is also a member of the "Special Olympics" based in the U.S.A. and is communicating with both the International Sports Association for the Blind and the International Sports Organization for the Disabled. It has also recently participated in the preparatory committee to establish the Arabic Federation for the Sports for the Handicapped held in Bahrain in April of this year.

New centre

The handicapped participants who have already benefited from the federation are approximately 100 athletes. The federation, however, hopes that this number will increase to between five and six hundred with the establishment of a new centre.

This new centre is, in fact, the most urgent project the federation is working on at present. It will include both the headquarters of the federation and a centre for sports for the handicapped, enabling the accomplishment of a variety of sporting and recreational activities. Mr. Al Karmi, the federation's secretary general, said this will be the first centre for sports for the handicapped not only in Jordan, but in the Middle East.

The centre, located within the grounds of the King Hussein Sports City, near the new Faculty of Physical Education of the University of Jordan, will comprise a total area of 2,178 square metres within an allocated 5,000 square metres area. The site possesses an important feature in that it is readily accessible to an ambulance or fire fighting vehicles.

The centre has been designed in a way making it possible to construct it in stages depending upon the availability of funds. The first stage includes the federation offices and conference room, an indoor sports area of 1,260 square metres with a total capacity of 168 persons, a recreation room, a dining, changing rooms, a store room, cloakrooms and a cafeteria.

The construction of this first stage started last December and,

according to its designer, architect Mr. Samir Bisharat, will be concluded by the end of August. Mr. Bisharat, who is also treasurer for the federation, is presently following the works as a volunteer.

The building follows the recommendations of the European conference on the handicapped which outlined the standards and characteristics which must be applied in the design of building for the handicapped to simplify the passage of the handicapped through the buildings.

The second stage of construction will include dormitories and a restaurant with a capacity for 18 men and 18 women. Mr. Bisharat told the Jordan Times that the plans for this second stage are already made and work could start immediately if funds can be provided.

Funds needed

Mr. Al Karmi added that the total cost for the first stage, which amounts to JD 169,200, has been provided through fundraising efforts of His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, who presides over the foundation, and himself. The funds have come mainly through the generosity of individuals. This sum, however, only covers the construction of the building and does not include electricity, other utilities, furniture, equipment or other needs.

The foundation hopes, in fact, to be able to provide sports clothing for the teams, sufficient wheelchairs for servicing, specially-equipped buses for the transport of the handicapped to and from the centre, as well as sufficient man power, coaches, referees and aides for training and work in the centre. A swimming pool for physiotherapy and training of the handicapped as well as a shooting range for special training purposes are also in the future plans.

Prince Ra'd told the Jordan Times that he is presently very busy trying to raise the necessary funds for the completion of the building, as well as these other needs and other finances for the continuity of the federation's activities.

JEMS provides support for flourishing egg production sector

By Olga Mikhail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Steadily growing over the past years to a present output of 400 million eggs per year, egg production in Jordan is becoming a very prominent and profitable business for many farmers investing in the poultry industry. In fact, many farmers in Jordan have shifted from broilers to egg production as a result of reduced prospects in the broiler industry.

Due to up-to-date techniques and specially-trained geneticists, more than thirty different breeds and varieties of chicken are recognised as egg producers, but only a handful of these are of any economic importance today. While the commercial poultry industry in Jordan before 1967 concentrated on broiler production, eggs were imported from Eastern Europe at prices 60-70 per cent lower than local costs.

In 1970, when Syria closed its borders to Jordan, eggs were flown in by air and local production did not gain momentum until a tariff of five fils per egg was imposed on imported eggs by the government. This was an incentive for many financially strong investors to invest heavily in the laying farm business which contributed to the rapid development of the industry.

As with broiler production, egg production in Jordan faces the classical problem of surplus profitability due to the keen competition facing exported eggs.

In 1979 there was a large surplus of eggs and prices fell drastically but the Jordan Egg Producing and Marketing Cooperative Society (JEMS) managed to export the surplus at reasonable prices during 1980 and 1981.

"JEMS was formed in 1980 when the Jordanian market realised a large surplus of eggs which led to drastic fall in prices," Mr. Rafad Farhan, a member of the JEMS board told the Jordan Times. JEMS, he added, was initially formed by 25 members and supported by the Jordanian Cooperative Society and, in 1983 the society was appointed to be the sole marketing body for eggs in Jordan.

At present there are around 135 members of the JEMS comprising all commercial egg producers in Jordan owning a total number of 2,250,000 layers.

Mr. Farhan, who is a shareholder in two layer farms in Irbid, explained that the society members are charged around 200

fils per hen to cover the society's losses as well as their membership share capital of 100 fils per hen.

Production, consumption

According to the latest statistics available at the Ministry of Agriculture, the number of layer farms operating in Jordan is 161 with 3,077,200 birds which produce around 430 million eggs per year, an average yield of about 215 eggs per hen per year. In Jordan per capita egg consumption is 132 eggs a year, a total annual consumption of 330 million eggs.

With the present annual production of 430 million eggs, Jordan has to export around 100 million eggs a year to neighbouring countries," Mr. Farhan explained. Compared to western standards, the average layer farm in Jordan has relatively poor production; the average yield per hen per year in Europe exceeds 260 eggs as compared to the average of 215 eggs in Jordan.

Egg production includes egg sold as food and eggs sold to farmers for hatching. A typical egg-producing farmer buys baby chicks or ready to lay pullets from a hatchery. Male and female chicks are separated at hatching time, the hens or pullets are kept for egg production and the cockerels or males are disposed of. The pullets are either sold to farmers at hatching time or kept for 16 to 20 weeks and sold as started pullets.

According to surveys conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, production of day-old chicks in 1982 amounted to 2,453,000, including 275,000 imported chicks. Among the layers available in Jordan 12.5 per cent were reported as using pullets rather than day-old chicks.

Half of the annual production of 400 million eggs comes from five large farms and 70 per cent of the production capacity is concentrated in Irbid, Mafrqa, Zarqa and Amman.

"The average farm capacity in Jordan is 16,700 birds and 25 per cent of the total egg production takes place at farms with a capacity of 20,000 birds or more," Mr. Farhan said. There are three layer parent farms in Jordan, one in Mafrqa and two in Zarqa with a total of 67,000 layers. This means, Mr. Farhan explained, that a few hundred thousand layer day-old chicks have to be imported every year.

The Arab League is embarking on establishing a grandparent stock farm in Dhuleil to help sup-

ply the Jordanian market with day-old chicks.

Increased demand for poultry meat and fresh eggs means that poultry farmers are now more willing to invest in modern equipment to increase production. Poultry farmers are also more aware of the possibility that disease may break out at if the necessary step and precautions are not taken.

Six to eight week-old chicks have critical needs for vitamins, minerals, protein and energy. At the same time minute quantities of antibiotics and other disease preventive substances are also needed to keep the birds healthy. Moreover, vaccines for several chicken diseases must also be provided. These vaccines are available in the form of liquid or dust which may be added to the drinking water, dusted over the chicken or injected in to muscle tissue. Diseases for which vaccines are available include bronchitis, Newcastle disease, fowlpox and laryngotracheitis.

Mr. Farhan explained that hens lay for as long as four to five years. However, he added, after the first year the laying rate is reduced considerably and usually hens are kept for less than two years. The two-year life of a hen includes six months to mature and 12 to 18 months of egg production. After that the hens are sold for meat at very low prices.

Marketing

"Being the only responsible body for marketing eggs in Jordan, the JEMS is contributing to solving many of the problems facing the egg industry," Mr. Farhan explained. Among the problems, he continued, is surplus production and broken eggs which are given free of charge to middlemen and retailers.

The JEMS has collection centres in seven places. Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Sweileh, Madaba, Mafrqa and Karak. The farmers deliver the eggs to the centre in their own or rented trucks, the trays are sorted in weight range groups and the eggs are stamped tray by tray by means of a labelling device before being distributed by the centres.

"Ninety per cent of the eggs are distributed by middlemen and ten per cent are distributed by the society," Mr. Farhan said. In the future, he added, the JEMS will be responsible for distributing more eggs. There are 90 middlemen working in Jordan and around 2,000 retailers in Amman.

Alia to operate direct flights to Kuala Lumpur

KUALA LUMPUR (Petra) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and the Malaysian Airways Company Saturday signed an agreement in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, for commissioning an air route linking Kuala Lumpur and Amman.

Under the agreement, Alia will operate two direct flights a week to Malaysia as of June 27 using Lockheed TriStar aircraft. Alia will also introduce Malay as one of the languages used aboard its planes.

With this new route, Malaysia becomes the 41st destination in Alia's flight network and the third destination in the Far East. Alia flights from Amman will be on Sundays and Thursdays at 9.00 p.m. while flights from Kuala Lumpur will be on Saturdays and Tuesdays at 8.00 a.m.

The commissioning of the new line is part of Alia's policy to link Jordan with various parts of the world, reflecting its interest in strengthening economic, cultural and tourism ties between Jordan and the Far East states, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Signing the agreement was Alia Director General Mahmoud Jamal Balqas and Malaysian airways by the airline's Director General Dauid Haj Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdul Rahman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree approves diplomatic regulation

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the Jordanian diplomatic corps regulation. The regulation specifies the cadres and numbers of diplomats at all Jordanian embassies abroad.

Industrial festival postponed

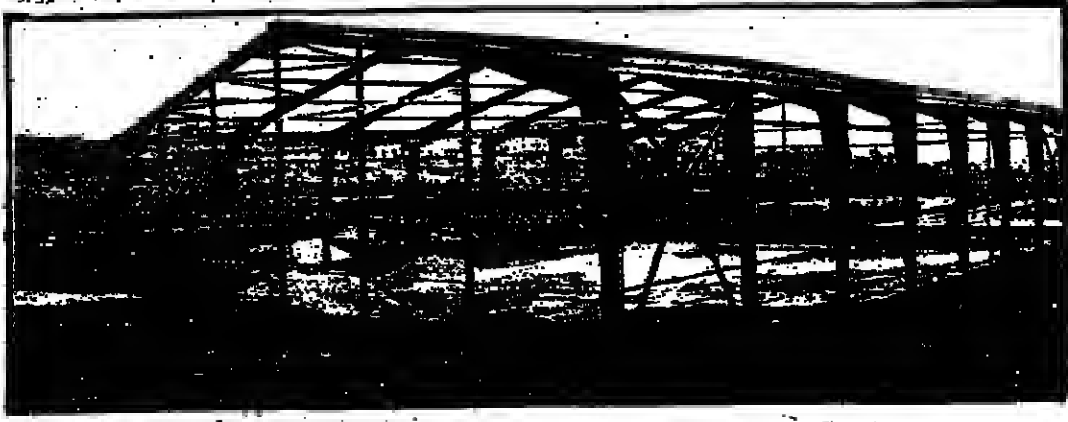
AMMAN (Petra) — The first Jordanian industrial agricultural festival, due to start on Monday, has been postponed, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade sources. The postponement is to allow more time for the preparations for the festival. Ministry of Industry and Trade Under Secretary Ibrahim Badran said that a date for the opening will be announced later.

Work starts on Karak phone exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has started work on the construction of 31 buildings to be used for an automatic telephone exchange in Karak Governorate and Tafleeh district. Director of the TCC Karak office Ahmad Awwad said the 31 buildings, estimated to cost JD 2 million, will be built to serve 75 residential gatherings, including Tafleeh.

Court sentences collaborator

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Fared Ismail Majed Al Haj Khaleel to five years imprisonment with hard labour for collaborating with the Israeli enemy. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

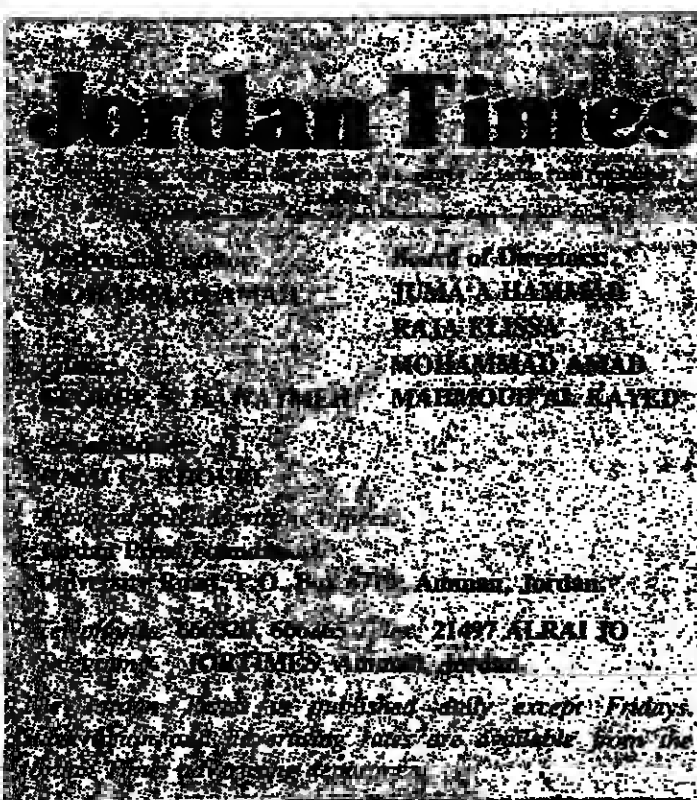


The new centre for the Jordanian Sports Federation, under construction (J.T. file photo)

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The sad echo

WE ARE disappointed to hear British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher echo the American objection to an international conference as a mechanism under whose aegis the Arab-Israeli conflict could be resolved through peaceful negotiations. After all, we would have thought, a nation such as Great Britain, with such a long record of direct involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict — indeed, to the point of having on its record the issuing of the, uh, rather murky Balfour Declaration — would understand better than most the need to take advantage of expressions by either side of a willingness to negotiate peace.

One can understand why the United States vehemently opposes an international conference to negotiate peace, for the United States has rarely taken a position that is contrary to Israel's in these matters. But why should Great Britain follow suit?

For years, we have looked to the West European states to provide both a moral and a political counter-point to the consistently pro-Israeli tilt of the American government. We have always sought a more clear European position based on an emphatic affirmation of the Palestinians' right to national self-determination. The Europeans have progressed beyond the American position, but now that a major new attempt is being made to revitalise Arab-Israeli peace-making, we are disappointed to hear the British prime minister line up with Washington on a key element that the Arabs deem vital for their participation in a negotiating process. Is Mrs. Thatcher keen to promote a negotiated Arab-Israeli peace, or only to assuage the knee-jerk reactionary closed-mindedness of American conservatives?

From the "Iron Lady" one expects a tough, realistic coming to terms with reality. On this issue, we seem to be offered, instead, the politics of paper-mache, where form and illusion replace substance, and ideology ranks higher than political reality. We would expect this from our friends on the other side of the great ocean. From our friends in Europe, however, we would have expected more principles and practicalities, and less politics. We still hope to see our expectations fulfilled.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab League discusses camps

THE EYES of the Arabs are now directed towards Tunis, where the Arab League Council is holding a meeting to discuss the situation at the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, following the attacks that caused so many sufferings to the innocent camp residents.

The meeting will no doubt expose the perpetrators of this conspiracy and those who colluded to carry it out and to exterminate the Palestinian presence from Lebanon. Those who are responsible directly or indirectly for this tragedy have objected to the council meeting and the Lebanese delegate said that this was an internal Lebanese affair, echoing the same terms used by his colleague at the U.N. Security Council meeting which was called to look into the issue. Both envoys said that discussing the issue is to be regarded as a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty.

The council meeting is designed not to violate Lebanon's sovereignty but to put an end to this tragedy and to keep the hands of the criminals off the camps. The meeting is intended as a means of saving the Palestinian people in the camps from disaster. The Arab League is now confronted with a major problem, and the Arab countries taking part in the extraordinary session in Tunis are now watched by millions of Arabs and Muslims who want to see if they can pass the test.

Al Dustour: Seeking a way out

THE ARAB League Council meets in Tunis Saturday as the aggression on Palestinian camps in Beirut enters its fourth week. We do not really expect the Arab League to take practical steps to stop the tragedy since it does not have the means for doing that. But the fact that the council has met indicates that those members which opposed the debate of the situation in the refugee camps no more hold much influence over the Arab League and that their previous power is now receding.

Syria, which holds much influence over Lebanon's affairs, and Lebanon, which provides the scene of the crime being committed against the refugees, have both declined to attend the council meeting. These two members are among certain Arab countries which have for so long obstructed pan-Arab action and defied international community sympathy for the refugees and scoffed at world public opinion's condemnation of the attacks, launched by the Shi'ite Amal militia. These two members have thus far been encouraging disension among Arab ranks and helping to keep the Arab nation in a weak state.

What the Arab ministers meeting in Tunis is required to do now is to prove to the world that they can and will put an end to the disaster and will also pave the way for ending inter-Arab differences and pave the way for a summit that can solve all Arab problems.

Sawt Al Shaab: Attempts at paralysing meeting

THE CONTINUING attacks by the Shi'ites on the Palestinian refugee camps of Beirut will be discussed by the Arab League council in Tunis Saturday. The council will look into means for ending the sufferings of the Palestinians and halting the criminal attacks on the women and children.

Though the meeting, called by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has been delayed for so long, yet Arab masses hope that the delegates will reach a formula to end this human tragedy. On the other hand, Syria and Lebanon, which opposed the meeting and are boycotting it on the pretext that it constitutes an interference in Lebanon's internal affairs, are doing what they can to thwart attempts to stop the attacks. They are trying to paralyse the Arab League and at the same time allow the aggressors to pursue their campaign to exterminate the Palestinians from Beirut and the whole of Lebanon.

This conspiracy was hatched and carried out because of the lack of Arab unanimity and unified ranks and in the absence of a pan-Arab consensus to hold a summit meeting to find a lasting solution to the problems of Lebanon.

It seems that Syria is intent on pursuing this course of causing disarray in the ranks of the Arab nation and preventing any form of solidarity among Arab states.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Not every problem has a happy solution

By Dr. Fahed Fariek

PEOPLE IN charge of public affairs tend to overvalue the economists. They believe that they have comprehensive solutions to all problems and difficulties facing society, the corporations or the national economy.

These people think that there is actually an answer to every question and a solution to every problem. All that they need is to develop these solutions or consult a genius economist!

As a matter of fact, there are many problems which defy solutions or simply do not have happy solutions at all. Many undesired situations could not be prevented from running their course. At best we can alleviate the damage, postpone the problem for a while or find

some other party to pay for the failure.

I am saying all that after reading economic comments in our local press whereby a prominent economist in charge of trade and industry, made statements like:

— We shall formulate the right solutions to solve all the problems from which all sectors of the economy suffer.

— We shall decide on solutions which are good for all concerned, be them producers, consumers, investors or labourers.

— We shall solve all the technical and financial problems of the company (a major one) within two years.

— We shall solve all problems and tackle bottleneck related to wood manufacturing

company, and all similar companies, in the very near future.

— We are conducting surveys and studies which will help us put our finger on the causes of trouble in some companies. Based on the findings of these studies we shall approach these causes in a way to enable these companies to overcome all their trouble etc....

These quotes, promising suitable solutions to all problems facing all sectors of the economy were published in Al Ra'i newspaper of June 3, 1985. They are samples of this line of thinking. They demonstrate a real awareness of the problems and the need for solutions. They also represent oversimplification leading to the myth that there are guaranteed solutions to every economic or financial problem, and that if we do not know what the fault-proof solutions are now, we have only to study, research books and references, form committees and resort to consultants to arrive at the solutions.

Unfortunately, some problems and situations are structural and real. They do not always lend themselves to effective solutions capable of overcoming such problems and correcting such situations. In these cases, it is advisable to acknowledge the nature of the problem, face it immediately without wasting more time and incurring more losses by searching for magic solutions, or merely buying time in the hope that a magic solution will eventually evolve in a year or two.

More tragic still, the buck could be passed to someone else who will worry about the problem and be held responsible for its consequence. Suppose that a certain manufacturing project was proved unfeasible, yet it was, nevertheless, implemented at a higher cost. Is there a solution that can turn such a project into a success?

Also, the level of consumption and imports in Jordan has long been determined in view of heavy financial support to the Treasury over and above the external borrowing of some JD 1 billion. Is there an economic solution that can guarantee a continued consumption and flow of imports

at the same or higher level without further borrowing and with less financial support received by the Treasury?

Many problems do have solutions, and many losing concerns can be turned around to profitability. However, other problems should be taken as irreversible facts and must be dealt with as such.

Some economic illnesses are temporary and can be cured by treating the patient with the proper medicines that can be prescribed by economists, consultants and committees. Other illnesses are more serious and call for surgery. It is very important to specifically diagnose the two sets of economic illnesses discriminating, and treat each malady accordingly.

Enthusiasm for French 'Eureka' project blunted by wrangling

By Youssef Azme

BRUSSELS — Growing support for a Western European high-technology drive to rival President Reagan's "Star Wars" space weapons research programme is being threatened by wrangling over how and by whom it should be done, officials and diplomats said.

European Community research ministers achieved a partial breakthrough in Luxembourg Tuesday when they cleared most of the obstacles that had so far blocked a new programme for advanced telecommunications cooperation.

But they disagreed about whether it should be carried out under the community umbrella or under other existing wider European specialist organisations amid worries about who should provide the necessary cash.

The diplomats said the differences over new programmes designed to boost data, video and satellite communications as a first step in the overall drive was typical of the kind of obstacles facing the wider French-originated "Eureka" scheme.

Christened "Eureka" — the cry of ancient Greek scientist Archimedes when he discovered a way of detecting adulterated gold

— by French President Francois Mitterrand, the idea has won enthusiastic support, even from early sceptics such as Britain and is likely to top the agenda at this month's community summit.

The Milan summit is billed as a crucial brain-storming session. Europe's leaders, joined for the first time by applicants Spain and Portugal, will try to put their house in order before the enlargement due on Jan. 1 and set the scene for the community's future development.

But the diplomats and officials said that, despite virtually unanimous agreement on the need for the programme, European leaders and their officials were facing formidable obstacles as they sought a formula that would cut through bureaucratic tangles and national rivalries.

"Everyone agrees it is a grand scheme vital for the future of Europe in a world geared to high technology," one senior diplomat said. "But it is not easy to overcome age-old suspicions and ingrained habits of defending national interests that have prevented the creation of a true common market in Europe after almost 30 years of trying."

He and other officials and diplomats agreed that where details

were concerned, little headway had been made since Mr. Mitterrand made his call for Eureka more than six weeks ago.

The community's March summit shortly before that had failed to take serious notice of similar ideas for a high-technology policy put forward by commission President Jacques Delors and earlier appeals along similar lines by Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, they added.

Mr. Delors complained publicly that they spent only 30 minutes over his ideas to double the community's research spending to six per cent of its total outlay.

The sources said the Milan summit was expected to endorse Eureka, but the chances of meaningful progress were minimal in the absence of clear ideas from any of the sides involved.

They also said they feared the debate over Eureka would become part of difficult exchanges over community institutional reform covering such things as the powers of the commission and ideas for scrapping the controversial right of veto.

A study prepared by European Commission officials and obtained by Reuters says the 10 are well behind the U.S. and Japan in the high-technology stakes.

Total research spending in the 10 community states was estimated at some \$60 billion last year — half that to the U.S. but 50 per cent higher than in Japan.

European industry, however, was lagging behind according to a high-technology index based on the comparative standings of member states of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The 10 European states measure 83 on the index (100 for all OECD states), compared with 152 for the U.S. and 131 for Japan, the study showed.

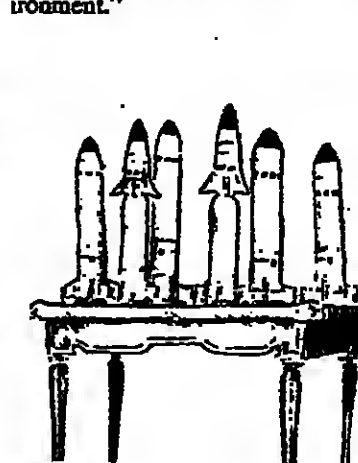
But the study contained no clear message on the way forward and was found wanting by the European Commission. Officials in a high-technology task force were ordered to prepare clear new recommendations for submission to the Milan summit.

The commission fears member-states might opt for a loose programme of bilateral or other forms of cooperation outside the commission framework, weakening the community in the long term.

Officials said the study's proposals to set up a complicated bureaucratic structure of committees and experts would play directly into the hands of those who com-

plain about the heavily bureaucratic structure of the commission and are using this as a reason for keeping high-technology out of its clutches.

The study also did not make detailed proposals on what the new technological community should be about, restricting itself to a bland listing of likely areas such as space, large computers and "the conquest of the marine environment."



Kunar offensive latest Soviet-Afghan effort to seal borders

By Tom Heneghan

KARACHI — The big Soviet troop thrust in Afghanistan's Kunar Valley is the latest step in Moscow's efforts to achieve what western diplomats say is the impossible — a country completely sealed off from outside rebel infiltration.

Soviet forces began this year's campaign in earnest last winter in Kabul, building up to eight security perimeters around the capital, then spreading to the south and east to bomb supply routes and ambush rebel convoys from Pakistan.

But the closer they come to the border, the harder their task. Rugged terrain and extended supply lines make the Communist forces more vulnerable to guerrilla attack.

"The Russians and Afghans talk all the time about sealing the border but the border is far too long and mountainous for that," said one Western diplomat following the war from Islamabad. "It would also take far more troops to patrol the border than the Russians are prepared to deploy."

The Pakistan-based Mujahideen (Islamic warriors) also have the advantage of knowing the 300 or so passes leading into the country and alternative routes to their homes inside.

Paratroops leading the offensive have become bogged down about 20 kilometres short of the rebel-besieged garrison at Barikot at the northeastern end of the Kunar Valley, Afghan exiles say.

The attacking forces, estimated at about 8,000 Soviet and several thousand more Afghan troops, are expected to crush the 10-month-old siege with superior numbers of ground troops and dominance in the air, according to Western diplomats who ask not to be named.

But the diplomats say what would happen after that is unclear, because Barikot is too minor a crossing post to justify deployment of a large contingent for an unlimited time.

They say Kabul now appears set on establishing a 3,000-man base at Barikot, only one kilometre from the Pakistan border, to replace the present garrison of about 300 Afghan soldiers and several dozen Soviet advisors.

The new base would try to block rebels coming in from Pakistan's Chitral River Valley and patrol the rest of the Kunar Valley to block infiltration over the mountainous

routes through the Kunar Valley, but other routes exist further north, guerrillas say.

The main supply routes into Afghanistan go through Paktia Province south of the Khyber Pass and frequent Soviet and Afghan sweeps have not stopped infiltration there, they add.

Guerrillas last week destroyed a military transport plane and a helicopter in their most spectacular attack for several months on Khost air base which Soviets use for frequent operations against guerrillas in Paktia province.

If the Soviet army follows earlier patterns, it will slowly replace its men in the exposed Barikot base with Afghan troops who the guerrillas say are not as loyal or skilled as their Soviet colleagues. "That would be the best thing for us," one guerrilla said of an Afghan-managed base. "The Afghan army hardly fights any more," he claimed.

Soviet and Afghan forces carried out a major mine-laying operation in March to seal off a strip of at least 35 kilometres along the border in southeastern Afghanistan between Kandahar and the Pakistani city of Quetta in Baluchistan.

In response, guerrillas shifted their main infiltration routes from the town of Chaman, directly on the main road from Quetta to Kandahar, to the area around Badin, about 210 kilometres to the northeast.

"It takes longer but we still get there," said one rebel from Kandahar.

Reports from Herat in western Afghanistan say Soviet and Afghan troops there have also tried to block off rebel routes coming from Iran.

But, in contrast to the Pakistanis, the Iranians try to control who passes their border so it is Tehran rather than Moscow which is regulating the infiltration flow in the west, diplomats say.

The Soviet army appears to have had its greatest success against infiltrators close to Kabul.

Guerrilla activity in Kabul has decreased steadily over the past six months, probably due to the tighter security there, diplomats say.

But the continuing fighting in Kandahar, which some envoys refer to as "Afghanistan's Beirut," shows that cities and bases close to the border are vulnerable even after extensive "sealing" of the border, they add.



Kaunda's cure fails to stop economic rot

President Kaunda of Zambia has reversed many key policies — but the economic rot has not been stopped. IMF pressures on the country seek more radical reforms, says Patti Waldmeir, recently in Lusaka.

"THE IMF does not care whether you are suffering from economic malaria, bilharzia or broken legs, they will always give you quinine."

Despite the undercurrent of resentment in this rueful commentary by President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia — a resentment shared by many in Africa where International Monetary Fund economic prescriptions are often vocally and sometimes violently opposed — there can be little doubt that over most of the past three years, Zambia has been taking the quinine.

The country is one of a handful of potentially-rich African nations such as Ghana, Uganda and Zaire which have recently been forced to test the path of IMF orthodoxy or face gradual economic collapse. Since 1982, Zambia has undertaken an IMF-sponsored programme of economic reforms which has earned high praise from the West and made the country the focus of a major international rescue effort.

President Kaunda has substantially altered the socialist character of the Zambian economy since independence in 1964, doing what amounts to an economic volte-face: he has decontrolled almost all wholesale and retail prices and slashed government subsidies while allowing wages to fall sharply in real terms.

In the face of resistance from the old guard of his own United National Independence Party (the country's only legal political

party) the president has reversed many key policies of the first 20 years of independence. Policies which he acknowledged, in a remarkably candid speech last July, had been "defeatist of the objectives of protecting the people from economic hardships."

In the past few months, however, Zambia and its international backers have been forced to face the fact that the cure administered so far has simply failed to stop the rot.

The acute balance of payments problems of recent years have reached crisis proportions as production of copper, which earns 90 per cent of Zambia's foreign exchange, continued to fall (last year's production of about 520,000 tonnes was some 50,000 tonnes short of the government's target).

Shortages of imported tyres and vehicle spare parts are crippling road transport, while the railways struggle with too few locomotives and wagons.

The mining industry also complains that shortages of inputs are seriously constraining its production, despite the fact that the mines already retain 25 per cent of their foreign exchange earnings to pay for imports, and perhaps consume a further 20 to 25 per cent in imported fuel and inputs for mining support industries.

In the past few years, the government has been reduced to a kind of hand-to-mouth existence with regard to external payments.

Deliveries of crude oil to the country's Ndola refinery were suspended late last month when accumulated arrears on Zambia's revolving oil credit facility with a consortium led by Bank of America exceeded \$30 million, the bank's cut-off point for providing new finance.

At about the same time, the Bank of Zambia missed a crucial \$7 million repayment to the IMF. The fund takes a serious view of arrears and Zambia cannot hope to resume drawings (currently suspended) on its SDR225 million (\$360 million) standby facility with the fund until the repayment has been made.

Now IMF pressure is on Zambia to adopt a more radical approach to economic reform. This will mean in practice either a large devaluation of the kwacha (of a minimum 50 per cent initially with further large adjustments to follow), or the adoption of a limited auction system for allocating foreign exchange. This method would have the same aim of establishing a more realistic rate for the kwacha (K2.3 to the dollar), which now trades at one quarter its official value on the black market.

IMF officials recently spent two weeks in Lusaka discussing exchange rate reform with the government, and they are believed to have left with an agreement in principle for a more "active approach" to exchange rate adjustment but without solving the crucial question of exactly how devaluation is to be tackled. Insiders believe some form of auction system will eventually be chosen.

The delay could have serious implications for external payments. Zambia will be unable to resume drawings under its SDR225 million standby programme with the IMF (in virtual suspension since early this year) until formal agreement is reached on this issue. The absence of the IMF's stamp of approval on Zambia's economic programme could jeopardise the outcome of a planned consultative group meeting of Western donors set for early next month in Paris.

The political implications of a major exchange rate adjustment are clearly preoccupying Zambia's leaders. Either devaluation or an auction system would have a serious impact on living standards which already have declined sharply in recent years.

Zambian officials appear to have accepted that in order to stabilise the balance of payments in the medium to long term, non-traditional exports must be stimulated through devaluation. Copper exports will decline sharply by the year 2000 as ore reserves are exhausted, and the estimated K600 million (\$257.51) "pipeline" of unremitted profits, dividends and trade payments must be cleared to restore investor confidence.

It seems unlikely that either measure will lead to a dramatic improvement in the politically-important short term and Zambia would appear to have little alternative but to depend on concessional flows from the West to bridge the gap — Financial Times news feature.

Lloyd records 6th victory at French tennis tournament

PARIS (R) — Chris Evert Lloyd won the French Open women's singles tennis championship for a record sixth time Saturday when she beat Martina Navratilova in an epic three-set final.

Lloyd, the number two seed, prevailed 6-3, 6-7, 7-5 in two hours and 44 minutes — a memorable victory after her severe 6-3, 6-1 defeat by the world number one last year.

The triumph meant Lloyd became the first women's player to win the French Open six times. Australia's Margaret Court won five times between 1962 and 1973 and Bjorn Borg won the men's title six times between 1974 and 1981.

Winner and loser on Saturday received a standing ovation from the 16,000 capacity crowd when they embraced after the final point.

"This was one of the toughest matches I have ever had to play. Navratilova was a great sport out there and she's still a number one champion, so that makes it all the more thrilling to beat her," Lloyd said.

"It was a really incredible match. I'm only sorry I didn't win... it's too bad that somebody had to win — and I would have said that even if I'd won," said

Navratilova. The win advanced Lloyd, the Australian Open champion, down the road to becoming the second and last women's player to be awarded the International Tennis Federation's one million dollar bonus for clinching four consecutive Grand Slam titles.

The bonus, secured here last year by Navratilova, is to be dropped after this year's U.S. Open. Lloyd, dictating the pace from the outset on Saturday, went 3-0 up in the first set and was under-estimated when the defending champion and top seed levelled to 3-3.

Profiting from her opponent's rare lack of rhythm and her own confidence, Lloyd moved to 5-3, serving out the set as Navratilova sent a backhand into the tramlines.

The early games of the second set were a repeat of the first, with Navratilova again 3-1, and then 4-2, down.

Lloyd may be forgiven for believing the title was hers at that point, but Navratilova won the

next three games, then threatened her rival's serve with a set point. Two successive service breaks later, Lloyd came under heavy pressure in the tiebreaker, which Navratilova won 7-4.

By 5-5 in the nerve-racking third set the atmosphere on Roland Garros' show court was electric. Lloyd saved three break points in the 11th game and sealed the match in the next game with a superb backhand pass.

Lloyd said later the victory came at the best moment in her career.

"If I had lost I would have been pretty depressed about my tennis. The win comes at a time when retirement is at the back of my mind and also Martina has been so dominant," she said.

"It was certainly the most dramatic match I've ever played," she added.

Lloyd said her most difficult moments were when Navratilova came back at 5-5 in the second and in the final sets. "In the past mentally I would have given up, but I just kept telling myself to hang in there."

Navratilova was obviously disappointed with her form. "I did not play as well as I thought I would and certainly not as well as I can... it was an incredible fight."



AL RAMTHA VS. AL HUSSEIN: Ramtha mid-fielder Omar Makhadmeh (left) prepares for a shot while Al Hussein defender Nawras Ghazawi takes up a defending position during a match played on Friday night at Al Hussein Youth City stadium. Ramtha won the match 2-1 (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan')

Opposition to N.Zealand's rugby team's tour of South Africa thins

By Philip Melchior
Renter

WELLINGTON — With less than seven weeks to go before the New Zealand rugby team departs for South Africa, a campaign to stop the controversial tour is finding it hard to rally public sentiment against the trip.

So far the protest movement has failed to generate opposition powerful enough to convince rugby chiefs to call off the tour.

Prime Minister David Lange told Reuters he recognised the risk that frustrated protesters may be tempted to undermine their opposition to the tour by some sort of dramatic action.

Lange, strong in his personal opposition to the tour, has warned protest activists to resist that temptation.

"There is no place in a democracy for a small group, by force, to dictate to the majority," he said.

After initial expressions of outrage following the April 17 announcement of the tour, the protest movement has dwindled and has not been able to dent the resolve

of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union.

The protesters, who have pledged to remain within the law, have lost ground in the media to a parliamentary by-election due next month and to an impassioned debate in this essentially conservative country over moves to legalise homosexuality.

Within the tour debate, the focus has switched from placard-waving marchers to more specific actions. In Auckland, two rugby-playing lawyers are challenging the tour decision in the high court.

And cabin staff of the national airline Air New Zealand have voted not to carry the All Blacks, named for the colour of their playing gear, on any domestic or international flight.

"The whole tour issue has a low profile at the moment, but that will not continue," John Minto, chairman of the protest umbrella group Halt All Racist Tours (HART), told Reuters.

HART has called a second national day of protest for June 28, hoping to at least match the estimated 80,000 people from this country of three million who marched in cities and towns on May 3 in an earlier protest.

The marches will focus again on Auckland's Eden Park, New Zealand's biggest rugby stadium

which is expected to be packed the following day for a test match between New Zealand and Australia.

The park and the streets outside were the scene of violent clashes when the South African national team, the Springboks, toured New Zealand in 1981.

Stadium authorities, acting on police advice, erected barbed wire barricades around the perimeter of the field for a recent match between Auckland and the touring England team, 10 of whom played in South Africa last year.

About 200 protesters scuffled briefly with police outside the ground but police outnumbered demonstrators, as they have consistently since the South Africa tour was announced.

Assistant police commissioner Brian Davies told Reuters the police have been surprised at the small number of demonstrators turning up outside the big marches.

But Minto said he remains confident the tour will be called off, with public opinion and the strong opposition of the Labour government finally telling on the rugby union.

"The time for mild persuasion is over and the time for action has begun," he said.

Liverpool holds memorial for Brussels riot victims

LIVERPOOL (R) — The city of Liverpool Saturday mourned the 38 victims of the Brussels football carnage in a memorial service attended by the envoys of Belgium and Italy.

More than 2,000 people filled the city's Anglican cathedral to pay their respects to the soccer fans, most of them Italian and Belgian, who died in the May 29 riot at the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus of Italy.

The congregation included retiring Liverpool chairman Joe Fagan, Environment Secretary

Patrick Jenkin and representatives of Britain's four major parliamentary parties.

"We are here because we must say to the people of Italy and Belgium that we, as a nation, as a country and city, share with them the sense of outrage and horror at what happened in Brussels," Derrick Walters, Dean of Liverpool, said in an address.

Ambassadors Andrea Gaglian of Italy and Jean-Paul van Bellingen of Belgium received silver plaques with inscriptions offering "deep sorrow and sympathy" to their peoples.

Oh So Sharp wins Epsom Derby Oaks

EPSOM, England (R) — American jockey Steve Cauthen, who won the Epsom Derby on Wednesday, wrapped up a memorable week when steering Oh So Sharp to an effortless victory in the Epsom Oaks Saturday.

"She's a fantastic filly and has got a lot of speed. What a fantastic week," the delighted champion jockey told reporters after his easy seven-length win aboard the 6-4 favourite.

Triptych trailed in seven lengths behind in second place with Dublin three quarters of a length back in third place.

Oh So Sharp, an unbeaten filly who won the English 1,000 Guineas on her last outing in a thrilling finish, made light of Saturday's soft going, hit the front two furlongs out and pulverised the other 11 runners.

It was almost as convincing as the victory on Wednesday of Slip Anchor, who led from pillar to post in the Epsom Derby.

Saturday's win also completed an Epsom big race double this week for Newmarket trainer Henry Cecil, who said he had always been confident Oh So Sharp could stay the distance of Saturday's one and a half mile classic.

It was only the fourth time since

World War II that the same jockey and trainer had landed the Epsom Derby-Oaks double.

Saturday's win was worth £111,744 (\$141,914) to owner Sheikh Mohammed, the defence minister of Dubai.

Cauthen, who got up in the last stride to land the 1,000 Guineas, never had an anxious moment on Saturday.

The stylish young jockey kept Oh So Sharp tucked in the middle of the field and was well positioned to pounce as the swung round Tattenham corner.

Triptych, ridden by Irish jockey Christy Roche, took over from long-time leader Romantic Feeling in the straight. But the race was all over when Cauthen pressed the button on Oh So Sharp who accelerated effortlessly away.

Dublin, ridden by Pat Eddery, came from behind to snatch third place.

Cauthen was quick to praise the classic filly afterwards. "She thrills me. She has a lovely temperament and settled nicely early on."

Asked which horse he would pick if Slip Anchor ever clashed with Oh So Sharp, Cauthen laughed and said: "I shall do my damndest to keep them apart."

Bayern wins W. German league

BONN (R) — Veteran striker Dieter Hoeness clinched the West German soccer league title for Bayern Munich Saturday as they beat Eintracht Brunswick 1-0 on the final day of the season.

Hoeness scored the only goal in the 49th minute when Brunswick goalkeeper Bernd Franke could only parry a shot from Roland Wohlfarth.

Bayern's seventh league championship in the last 17 years, and their first since 1981, was well-compensated for failing to land a domestic and European treble.

The Munich club's season nearly turned sour when England's Everton knocked them out of the European Cup Winners' Cup in

the semifinal and Bayer Uerdingen surprisingly beat them in the West German Cup final.

Bayern's only challengers for the league title, Werder Bremen, badly missed injured striker Rudi Voeller Saturday and lost 2-0 to Borussia Dortmund to finish four points adrift.

Despite pre-season fears that Bayern would be a shadow of the great teams of the past after last summer's transfer to Italy of star striker Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the Munich side have clearly emerged as West Germany's top club.

In a frenzied first half Bayern struck the woodwork of the bottom club three times through Wohlfarth, Hoeness and Danish midfielder Soeren Lerby.

It was fitting that 32-year-old Hoeness should get the winner. Often mocked by Bayern fans for his clumsiness, he has scored many vital goals this season since returning to the side after the younger Munich strikers proved disappointing.

Werder, who lost to second half goals from Wolfgang Schuster and Swiss Andre Egli, have the consolation of a place in the UEFA Cup along with Cologne, who crashed 6-0 in Kaiserslautern. Borussia Moenchengladbach and Hamburg.

Hamburg, 1983 European champions, had nearly given up hope of reaching the required fifth place after four losses in a row.

RESULTS OF HORSE RACES, FRIDAY, JUNE 7th, 1985

FIRST RACE:

For beginner horses, Distance: 1,400 metres, Time: 1 minute 46 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Ajaieb	Hassan El Daham
2ND:	Amal	A. El Sattar
3RD:	Mardy	Matar
		Dawoud El Adwan

SECOND RACE:

For beginner horses, Distance: 1,000 metres, Time: 1 minute 12 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	H. El Mshakar	Khalid A. Elnaby
2ND:	El Sawy	Ahmad Sallm
3RD:	Elanka	Fahid Midak

THIRD RACE:

For beginner horses, Distance: 1,400 metres, Time: 1 minute 40 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Baroud	H.H. Late Sherif Nasir
2ND:	Sarim	Bin Jamil Stable
3RD:	S. Amman	H.H. Late Sherif Naser
		Bin Jamil Stable
		Samy Haddadin

FOURTH RACE:

For beginner horses, Distance: 1,000 metres, Time: 1 minute 8 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	El Talak	Nimr El Hmoud
2ND:	Orobah	Hany El Hadeed
3RD:	Majad	Ghalib Haddadin

FIFTH RACE:

For third class horses, Distance: 1,000 metres, Time: 1 minute 6 seconds

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	D. El Khall	Ghalib Haddadin
2ND:	Diana	Hany El Hadeed
3RD:	Koban	Izzat Kandour

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION TENDER NO. TCC 13/85

Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) announces a tender No. TCC 13/85 for: (Airconditioning of Electronic Exchanges, PCM Rooms and Telecommunication College).

All qualified companies (first and second class/electromechanical) who are interested in participating in this tender are requested to contact the secretary of tender committee at her office in TCC headquarter/Tower Building/Prince Moh'd Street, to receive the tender documents against a non-refundable amount of (JD 25).

Closing date of this tender will be June 30, 1985, 14.00 o'clock.

Eng. Moh'd Shahid Ismail
Director General.

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THE SECRET OF THE DEADLY SHAWLINE (Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

THE KILLING FIELDS

3:30, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45

Cinema OPERA

Tel: 675573

PORKY II

3:30, 5:30, 9:00, 10:45
Abdali, behind ALIA offices

Cinema PALESTINE

Tel: 22117

1- "DON" 2- THE WAR MACHINE (Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

ALL ROUNDER (Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5-8

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"Arabic movie"

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Hong Kong government takes over failed bank

HONG KONG (R) — The Hong Kong government took over a failed bank Friday night and said the rescue could cost taxpayers two billion dollars (\$255 million).

The British colony's legislative council went into emergency session and unanimously approved legislation allowing the government to take control of the Overseas Trust Bank (OTB).

The takeover, which will allow OTB to reopen on Monday, capped a day of crisis in the world's third ranking financial centre that saw the biggest plunge in share prices for 1-1/2 years.

Financial secretary Sir John Brembridge told the council: "Confidence in the Hong Kong dollar is at stake."

He said OTB's failure appeared to be the result of a major fraud involving hundreds of millions of Hong Kong dollars. Liabilities could reach two billion dollars.

Three people, including a senior bank official, have been detained for questioning. A fourth, a woman employee of OTB, was released Friday, police said.

The government named secretary for monetary affairs Mr. Douglas Bye as the new chairman of OTB.

Banking Commissioner Robert Fell told reporters after the legislative council meeting that some OTB funds were loaned to the owner of a finance company that failed early this year.

OTB has deposits estimated at

10 billion dollars (\$1.2 billion), about 1,400 staff and a widespread banking network in the colony as well as branches abroad.

Hong Kong does not insure deposits and a failure to support the bank would have been a severe blow to thousands of small investors and the colony's prestige as a financial centre, bankers said.

The local stock index tumbled 86.95 points to close at 1542.55, with share prices falling across the board.

Local radio reported a run on several small banks but Mr. Fell said only one bank was affected.

Investor confidence has been returning to Hong Kong after two years of nervousness as London and Peking negotiated the British

colony's return to China in 1997.

The decision to take control of OTB came 20 months after the government took over the Hang Lung Bank when it ran into trouble.

Council members called on the government to ensure that other banks did not fail.

Government officials told reporters that OTB shareholders were entitled to compensation but payment was unlikely.

OTB's troubles appeared Friday night to be unravelling in an accord for the sale of one of its bank subsidiaries.

Officials of two of Hong Kong's four stock exchanges told Reuters a Singapore-based company that had earlier agreed to buy a con-

trolling interest in the subsidiary was now reconsidering.

Mr. Brembridge told the legislative council that an intensive examination of OTB books indicated "that the bank's problem went beyond imprudent management or misfortune and that the extent of provisions which ought prudently to be made in respect of existing bad and doubtful loans was such that the capital of the bank was more than wholly lost."

"Although banking supervision can always be improved upon, the problems of Overseas Trust Bank appear to have arisen from criminal actions and not from lack of prudential supervision by the banking commission," he said.

Argentina clinches agreement with IMF, banks

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina has clinched agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its creditor banks needed to clear interest arrears before a crucial deadline on Monday.

An economy ministry statement Friday night said "technical agreement" had been reached in talks in Washington with IMF officials on resumption of a \$1.42-billion standby loan granted last December and terminated when Buenos Aires failed to meet agreed economic performance targets.

Outstanding issues on contracts for the refinancing of public sector debt falling due in 1984 and this

year had also been cleared with the steering committee of the country's creditor banks, the statement said.

Foreign banking sources here said Argentina was some \$1.3 billion in arrears on its \$48-billion foreign debt, of which about 70 per cent was owed by the public sector.

The sources said that without a deal to clear the arrears a meeting of U.S. inter-agency regulators on Monday could downgrade Argentina's credit rating.

Such a downgrade would strangle the flow of fresh funds to the 18-month-old democratic government, which is struggling to

contain inflation of 1,010.1 per cent in the last 12 months without sparking social unrest.

Government hiring has been frozen and all diplomatic transfers stopped since President Raul Alfonsín pledged in April to introduce a "war economy". Officials are also studying a 12 per cent budget cut.

The statement Friday night said Argentina was also pursuing a bri-

ding loan for an unspecified sum from the United States, unnamed Latin American countries and member nations of the Swiss-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Diplomats in Mexico City said Mexico, which took part in rescue operations for Buenos Aires last year with other Latin American countries, was planning to offer Argentina \$50 million as part of a

package involving Venezuela, Spain and the United States.

An economy ministry spokesman said after the communiqué was issued that Argentine negotiators in Washington were working with IMF officials on a memorandum of understanding for the new stand-by arrangement. Details would be released this week.

Reuters seeks 20% stake in Instinet

NEW YORK (R) — Reuters, the world news and information organization, said Friday it was in preliminary discussions with Instinet Corp. on acquiring about 20 per cent of Instinet's common stock at \$25 a share.

It said the proposal included the right to acquire up to another 31 per cent at \$22 a share, and a portion of the purchase price might consist of Reuters securities.

A Reuters spokesman said acquisition of the 20 per cent Instinet stake would cost about \$30-\$35 million.

Instinet provides continuously updated market information and automated trading of equities and other similar financial instruments.

Instinet adjourned its annual meeting Thursday because it said it had received an offer from a large corporation seeking to invest a substantial amount in the company.

Reuters said the discussions were preliminary and there was no assurance that a deal would be consummated.

Under an agreement announced in March, Reuters is the exclusive marketing agent for Instinet outside North America.

Additional marketing and technical arrangements were also being discussed in conjunction with the offer, Reuters said.

Reuters supplied a wide range of services to business subscribers and the news media, obtaining information from 82 exchange floors, from data contributed directly by 1,800 subscribers in 98 countries and from 658 full-time journalists.

Castro calls for general strike by debtor nations

MIAMI (AP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro called Friday for debtor nations to declare a "general strike" against industrialized countries to force them to renegotiate the poorer nation's debts.

"We have a debt of \$370 billion, almost all of it in dollars artificially inflated to achieve a colossal economic upturn in the United States," said Castro, referring to Latin America.

In a speech broadcast on Radio Havana and monitored here, Castro criticized the falling prices of raw materials, the Third World's principal exports.

The industrialized nations "pay us less and less, and charge us more and more, and so they become richer and we become poorer," he said.

Taking note of the U.S. budget deficit, Castro said, "we are paying for the rearmament of the United States... with these interest rates that are far higher than the historic and normal interest rates of any loan."

"When workers exhaust all of their alternatives in a company... they go on strike," he said, so "we propose a general strike of debtors."

Revolution and upheaval will follow if the debt is not renegotiated, he said, and leaders of the industrialized nations will not like the consequences.

China hopes to barter goods for nuclear power plants

LONDON (R) — China was willing to export nuclear fuel to pay for foreign nuclear power station technology, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang said Saturday.

Mr. Zhao was speaking at a news conference before flying to West Germany at the end of a week-long official visit to Britain. His 17-day European tour will also take him to the Netherlands.

"China wants to import nuclear technology, equipment, from abroad. If that is to be done then the question of compensatory trade is involved," he said in London.

"China produces nuclear fuels and is willing to export nuclear fuels as goods for compensatory trade," he added through an interpreter. He said China had not agreed to store foreign nuclear waste, which takes millions of years to decay. "The Chinese government does not have this idea at the moment," he said.

Mr. Zhao told the news conference the Hong Kong agreement, under which Britain will return the colony to China after 1997, opened new vistas for the development of relations in a new high.

He and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher signed two agreements last week — one a general framework for economic cooperation, the other on the transfer of technology for the peaceful use of nuclear power.

Abu Dhabi denies cutting official crude oil prices

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi, the largest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Friday denied reports it had cut its official crude oil prices.

It also reiterated support for prices set by the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Japanese oil traders in Singapore had said earlier Friday that Abu Dhabi had cut 55 cents a barrel from the price of its Murban, Zakum and Umm Shaif grades and had extended credit terms.

The official Emirates News Agency WAM quoted a source at the UAE oil ministry as saying there was "absolutely no truth" to the report.

"The UAE has always been and is now committed to the decisions of OPEC," WAM quoted the source as saying.

The agency said the report was aimed at unsettling the oil market and putting pressure on OPEC to cut prices at its June 30 meeting. Japanese customers of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company

(ADNOC) told Reuters earlier ADNOC had denied their requests for June price cuts. They said any cut before the end of the month and the OPEC meeting was highly unlikely despite falling spot market prices.

ADNOC is expected to hold price review talks at the end of the month with seven Japanese companies that have agreed on 1985 oil contracts for a total of around 85,000 barrels per day (b/d). Contracts specify such talks on a quarterly basis.

Only two of the companies, Idemitsu and Showa Shell, have actually signed contracts, however. The others are waiting to see what ADNOC will say — if any — on prices before formally committing themselves, industry sources said.

Meanwhile, Nigerian Oil Minister Tam David-West was quoted

Friday in Vienna as saying that oil consumers sitting on the fence in the expectation of falling prices are "wasting their time".

People "waging a psychological battle" should realise OPEC had enough "antibodies" to survive any manipulation of the oil market, Dr. David-West told the OPEC News Agency OPECNA.

The era of cheap oil would not return, he said. A weak market could be firmed up by adherence to discipline, including respect by OPEC members for national quotas and official prices.

It was important that members of OPEC should not expect Saudi Arabia to continue to bear the brunt of sacrifices, OPECNA quoted Dr. David-West as saying. "Saudi Arabia cannot be taken for granted."

The Nigerian oil minister was speaking in the wake of a meeting of OPEC's ministerial executive council, which ended on Monday. He expected the council to reconvene before a full OPEC conference scheduled for Geneva on June 30.

U.S. protectionist pressures threaten trans-Atlantic row

MAASTRICHT, Netherlands

(R) — Mounting protectionist pressures in the United States may provoke a trade war with its trans-Atlantic partners, senior U.S. and European officials and diplomats said Friday.

They were summing up a two-day conference on Euro-U.S. ties where U.S. officials warned privately the Reagan administration was virtually helpless in stemming the protectionist tide in Congress although it may be able to block some excesses.

Congress is angry at continuing European Community (EC) farm export subsidies.

In Knoxville, Belgium, U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block said Friday Washington would go ahead with more subsidised farm exports to counter increased community sales in world market.

"If that is what has to be done, then let it be so," he told a meeting of European feed manufacturers.

Mr. Block told the Maastricht meeting earlier a cut-price sale of wheat to Algeria announced earlier last week was only the first of a series of retaliatory moves under a \$2 billion programme being described as a "war chest" by its congressional supporters.

Both Community and U.S. officials feared the move could trigger calls for retaliation by the Community and unleash a cycle of reprisals which could spread bey-

ond agricultural trade.

Mr. Block said Friday a French refusal to agree a new date to discuss multilateral trade talks, including agriculture, had caused "frustration, unhappiness and disappointment in the U.S." and led directly to the initiative on Algeria.

"Either we all move towards free trade or, with great reluctance, the U.S. will have to implement some subsidies of its own to try and recover markets lost to unfair competition," he added.

But, he continued, the sales to Algeria should not be seen as an aggressive act and he sought to play down present trans-Atlantic tensions.

Mr. Block told the conference that new measures to boost exports would be encouraged in the U.S. farm bill currently before Congress and this was expected to come into force by July 1986 unless there were changes in Community policy.

In reply, Community Agriculture Commissioner Frans Andriessen said the U.S. farm market was one of the world's most protected. The Community was trying to make its policy more market-oriented and was seeking only to maintain its share of the world market, he added.

"The Americans are pursuing an expansionist policy which is

detrimental to the European share of the world market and will almost inevitably place us on a collision course," he said.

Meanwhile, a report by EC's court of auditors revealed Friday that a major revision of EC aid payments to farmers is the only way to eliminate a multi-million-dollar olive oil fraud.

The report, commissioned by the European Parliament, said the current system of paying farmers subsidies through their own organisations on the basis of what they say they produce, rather than sell, is bound to lead to abuse.

"The risk of fraud would be greatly reduced if it were possible to pay the production aid at the stage of processing because this would considerably diminish the number of points of payment," the report said.

Members of the European Parliament have long been worried about the lack of controls on the hundreds of millions of dollars paid to olive oil producers each year, with some accusing the mafia of being involved in siphoning off funds.

The report does not estimate the size of the fraud, although commission officials speak of around \$75 million a year and a confidential commission document leaked in 1982 put figures as high as \$180 million for 1981-1982.

U.S. jobless rate remain unchanged

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.3 per cent in May, the same level that has prevailed since February, the Labour Department said Friday.

The number of people in employment in May was virtually unchanged at 106.9 million. Unemployment totalled 8.4 million.

Details published in the report showed that while the jobless rate was unchanged, non-farm business payrolls rose an unexpectedly buoyant 345,000 to 97.5 million last month.

Dealers in New York, where the dollar quickly rose nearly two pence from Thursday night's close to 3.0770 German marks, said the larger than expected increase in non-farm jobs might prompt the Federal Reserve to delay a further interest rate cut.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are apt to be all stirred up today and feel you are not getting your ideas across to others as you would like, but if you keep very pleasant, you see things their way.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Private matters are not pleasing, but do not confide in others; handle them well and all will be fine.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day to clarify your aims, and then go after them in a positive manner instead of a haphazard one.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A good day to keep any promises you have made and not try to make a big impression in the outside world.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You think that by doing something drastic you can get ideas across much better, but this is not the case.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your hunches are apt to be not so good today, so rely more on your good judgment. Be particularly kind with the men you love.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Stop analyzing and criticizing friends' motives or you can get into trouble. Some contract you want to make will not last long.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 to Oct. 21) A good day to rest and not do all that work you have in mind, so put it off for now. Plan a better wardrobe for yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 22 to Nov. 21) Don't get into expensive pleasures that you can't afford, but be content with simple and wholesome ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get your home improved so that it is more charming, smooth-running and functional.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are not sure about some philosophy of life, but if you study it further it clarifies itself and you will benefit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy improving your home and forget financial and other practical matters for today. Keep the status quo.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Think out how to gain your most cherished personal aims, and then start wheels rolling in the right direction.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be interested in anything of an artistic or musical nature and should have as fine surroundings to grow up in as possible so as to avoid confused thinking. Dancing would be particularly good for your progeny. So slant your education plan along such lines.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew

ACROSS

- 1 NY Congressman
- 2 Long Island town
- 3 Com unit
- 4 Hip bones
- 5 Short floors
- 6 Fr. Basketball
- 7 Wash. city
- 8 Water Gardner
- 9 Printer's material
- 10 Woody
- 11 Small hatch
- 12 Across Diana
- 13 Scatter
- 14 "Bitter Spirit" author
- 15 Composite plant
- 16 Deciduous
- 17 Heap of stones
- 18 Actor Herbert
- 19 Lumber's river
- 20 Periphrastic
- 21 Ultimatum word
- 22 Harder
- 23 Cowboy million
- 24 Pipe material
- 25 Out-of-doors
- 26 Blaring
- 27 Reluctant
- 28 God of love
- 29 Ye Old Tea
- 30 Fish sauce
- 31 Values
- 32 Elise or Gerdie
- 33 Jazz pianist
- 34 Initiator
- 35 Loosen
- 36 Curb
- 37 Mel de
- 38 Shimmer
- 39 Blam

DOWN

- 1 Pigeon's bird
- 2 Quail
- 3 Whirly source
- 4 Budy
- 5 Toward the center
- 6 Blam
- 7 Across Tomlin
- 8 Not well
- 9 Old stringed instrument
- 10 Yorktown leader
- 11 Heretic
- 12 Sugar source
- 13 Star in
- 14 Cygnus
- 15 Love in Rome
- 16 Paris now
- 17 Fruit
- 18 Playground item
- 19 Cuban dance
- 20 Bay window
- 21 Sly one at a dance
- 22 Red River city
- 23 Scurdies
- 24 Abrasive
- 25 Extravagant
- 26 Scurdies
- 27 Harvest
- 28 Fr. cathedral
- 29 night Paul
- 30 Polster item
- 31 Mithras
- 32 player
- 33 "Venus"
- 34 Prebabe
- 35 Achille Lange
- 36 Lawyer's altar
- 37 Make individual
- 38 Flying prefix
- 39 Author Zane
- 40 Literary collection
- 41 Invention vessel

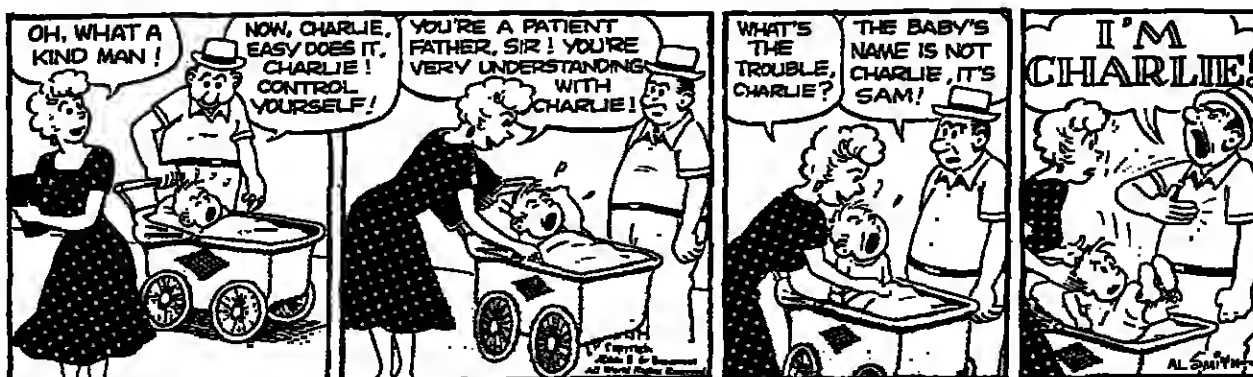
Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

WILLIAM ELLIOT SLIP
ANTHONY HARRIS
PUNISHING ANGRY
DOE POLISH
MORRIS AFRIC
UTILE OMIG EICAD
THEIRBIOHAYPOIZLE
TODD MATTIS MATTAY
ENCLOSURE EICAD
TODAY'S CROSSWORD
HARRY ARROY YAPIN
BETTER KITE EICAD
BETTER EICAD EICAD

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TALUF
SBELS
CATATH
LOWEE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: TO (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: GAMUT BULLY POCKET JOYFUL
Answer: How the anesthetologist's patient felt — VERY "PUT OUT"

Reagan to comply with SALT II, press says

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan is expected to announce on Monday that the United States will remain in "basic compliance" with the SALT-II treaty, the Washington Post said Saturday.

Western allies have been pressing the administration to continue abiding by the strategic arms control agreement reached between the Soviet Union and the Carter administration, but never ratified by the U.S. Senate.

The Post said that while Reagan would agree not to undercut the treaty he would make "appropriate responses" to what the United States says are Soviet violations of SALT-II.

The New York Times also reported Saturday that administration officials said they believe Mr. Reagan would decide to continue overall adherence to the treaty.

The Post said the final form of Mr. Reagan's statement on SALT-II, which is due to make for Congress on Monday, would be worked out over the weekend, but the president had already decided to continue with a basic policy of abiding by the treaty.

Secretary of State George Shultz attending a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) meeting in Lisbon cabled the president this week to underline allied support for continued compliance, the Post said.

Meanwhile, special U.S. arms control adviser Paul Nitze said Saturday although there was some indication that the Soviets were prepared to move forward in Geneva arms talks, he saw little hope of real progress in the near future.

Mr. Nitze said that during the first round of the talks the Soviets

for the Star Wars programme and said there was no question in his mind that a space-based shield against missiles could be realised.

Earlier Friday, NATO foreign ministers ended a two-day meeting in Estoril, Portugal, without endorsing the controversial Star Wars plan. The United States had sought allied support for SDI but France, Denmark and Greece refused to go along.

Sen. Wallop, a strong backer of SDI, said the Soviets had long since decided to build an anti-missile system. "Ground-based anti-missile devices are rolling off Soviet production lines and space-based devices are both in hand and under development," he said.

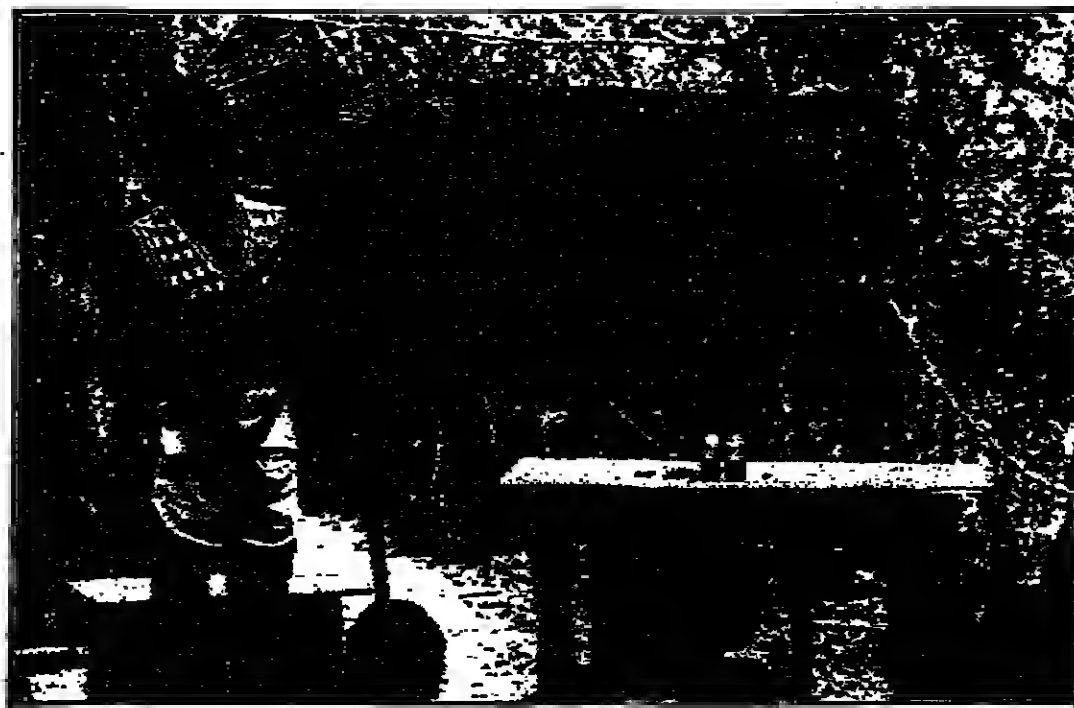
Several society members questioned the value or desirability of a space-based defence system and one suggested it could not be made fully effective. "SDI is a net and not a bag and a net has holes," he said.

Dr. Teller replied "no defence is absolute," but that this was no reason why SDI should not be tried.

Another society member wondered if the American commitment to defend Western Europe would be diminished if the United States perfected a defence against Soviet missiles aimed at America.

Mr. Nitze said the U.S. promise to defend Western Europe is not a "fair weather commitment" but one for "fair weather and foul."

Some countries fear SDI will touch off an arms race in space and upset the present Western strategy of nuclear deterrence which has kept peace between the superpowers for more than 40 years.



TAMIL REBELS TRAINED: An instructor demonstrates the use of an M-16 gun and M-90 grenade launcher to a class of Tamil activists fighting for statehood in Sri Lanka under the guidance of the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam in the northern part of Sri Lanka (AP wirephoto)

Monsoon rains threaten relief operations in Bangladesh islands

DHAKA (R) — Army landing craft began ferrying relief to islands swept by a cyclone and killer tidal waves last month after heavy monsoon rains threatened to stop supplies by helicopter and boats, officials said Saturday.

They said a large section of the seven coastal islands, still reeling from the tidal surge which killed thousands of people and left at least 250,000 homeless, had been freshly flooded by up to one metre of water, making it impossible for helicopters to land.

The officials at the government's main Relief Coordination Centre, in Dhaka told

Reuters the army craft were pressed into operation to ensure continued supplies for the suffering islanders.

"The government is determined to keep the flow of food, clothing and medicine by any means," Captain Mohammad Sharif of the centre said.

The rains struck the country two weeks after an estimated 10,000 people were swept by 1.5-metre waves into the Bay of Bengal. It was the worst calamity since 1970, when tidal waves killed more than 100,000 island people.

Capt. Sharif said about 2,500 bodies had been recovered fol-

lowing the May 24 disaster and more than 4,500 people were still missing, feared dead. Survivors and relief workers said the number of those missing could double.

Officials at Dhaka weather office Saturday said part of Sylhet town and surrounding farmland were under water, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes.

The office recorded 17 centimetres rainfall in Sylhet district, bordering India's Assam state, in 24 hours ending Saturday morning. Rivers in the area burst their banks and were flowing much above their danger level.

Pakistan negotiating release of kidnapped Australians

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani negotiators are still bargaining with Baluch tribesmen for the release of an Australian couple kidnapped three weeks ago, official sources said Saturday.

The negotiators seeking to free Robert and Jenny Williamson have set up camp near the tribal village of Panjpai, 55 kilometres southwest of the Afghan provincial capital Quetta and only 20 kilometres from the Afghan border, the sources in Quetta said.

"It's one of these complicated tribal negotiations that take a lot of time," an official, who asked not to be named, said. "But we think we will come to an agreement soon."

The couple were kidnapped while driving outside Quetta around May 19 by Salosi tribesmen, a sub-tribe of the independent Baluch people who live in Pakistan's westernmost province.

The kidnappers want to exchange the Williamsons for Allah Gul Salosi, a tribal sardar (chief) now in jail for abducting a Chilean who was never seen again.

Kidnapping is a common form of blackmail among the Baluch and Pashtun tribes along the Afghan border. The sources could not say whether the authorities would release the chief as part of a deal.

Williamsons worked for the Baluchistan Forestry Department under a programme financed by the World Bank and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Man jailed 6 months for killing peacock

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LONDON (R) — Two men were convicted of carrying-out Britain's biggest cash robbery, a £6-million (\$7.5-million) hold-up at a security firm. A jury, kept under constant guard during a nine-week trial, took 2½ days to reach verdicts against John Knight, 48, a garage owner, and Terence Perkins, 36, a property developer. The Old Bailey court was told the robbers two years ago raided the London headquarters of Security Express, doused a guard with petrol and threatened to burn him alive unless he gave them the keys to the vault. The gang drove off with five tonnes of used banknotes. Knight and Perkins will be sentenced on Monday, along with two other men convicted of handling the stolen money. Britain's largest robbery was a £25-million (\$30-million) theft of gold and gems from a strongroom at a warehouse near Heathrow Airport in November 1983.

Big Ben runs 10 minutes fast but chimes on time

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3 more die in Indian state violence

NEW DELHI (R) — Police shot dead three people in a second town in India's Western Gujarat state taking to 13 the death toll from fresh violence over a government policy reserving jobs for underprivileged groups.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said police opened fire in Baroda to break up clashes between supporters and opponents of the policy killing a man, a woman and a two-year-old child.

The army opened fire in Gujarat's largest city Ahmedabad Friday to break up similar clashes in which 10 people died.

PTI said an indefinite curfew

was in force in the worst hit areas of the two cities.

Baroda and a third town, Surat, were also hit by violence Friday in which more than 50 people were injured.

Trouble broke out in Ahmedabad and other parts of Gujarat state three months ago over increases in government quotas reserving jobs and college places for underprivileged groups like untouchables.

The violence, which has so far killed nearly 150 people, has triggered Hindu-Muslim clashes in recent weeks.

Tension rose in the city when

about 500,000 civil servants started an indefinite strike against the reservation policy which they oppose on the grounds that it discriminates against merit candidates.

Shopkeepers and businessmen were on strike to protest against lawlessness, which they say is disrupting the city's economy.

A senior army official told Reuters that Friday's violence was mainly between Hindus and Muslims in the old walled city district.

He said about 1,000 people were involved in roof-top battles in the narrow alleys that twist through the city's old quarter.

China slams U.S. threat to stop family planning aid

PEKING (R) — China Saturday made a sharp attack on a U.S. threat to halt American contribution for United Nations-aided population programmes over alleged forced abortions in China.

"These actions... are obviously harmful to Sino-U.S. relations. We cannot but feel surprised and regret," Zhou Guoheng, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said in a prepared statement to reporters.

Deputy-Director of the State Family Planning Commission Shen Guoxiang also told reporters "not a single penny of the U.S. contributions for the United Nations Fund for Population Act-

ivities (UNFPA) has been used for forced abortions."

The United States threatened to withhold its contribution to UNFPA unless it was assured that the money was not used for abortions in any country.

Washington contributes about one quarter of the \$140-million yearly UNFPA budget and the UNFPA has a \$10-million annual programme in China.

China says it reserves the sovereign right, enshrined in the 1984 population conference in Mexico, to make its own population policies in light of national conditions. It also says it does not practise forced abortion.

OAS panel to investigate Costa Rican border clashes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Organisation of American States (OAS) has approved formation of a committee to investigate an incident in which Costa Rica said Nicaraguan soldiers killed two of its civil guardsmen and wounded seven others.

The action, requested by Costa Rica, followed a day of diplomatic manoeuvring that began with Nicaragua opposing the request but later joining in the 31-member body's unanimous vote in favour of the resolution.

The resolution asks the governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela to form a fact-finding committee, which will travel to the Costa Rican site where the May 31 incident occurred. OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares was asked to "cooperate" with the committee.

The OAS generally has been content to allow the four-nation Central American peace mediation group, called the Contadora Group, to play the leading role in seeking a solution to the region's problems.

Nicaraguan Ambassador Edgar Parrales angrily denounced the Costa Rican proposal, contending that OAS involvement in the issue would undercut the Contadora process.

Nicaragua believes it can get a more sympathetic hearing from the four Contadora countries than it can from the OAS, where the dominant member is the United States.

Mr. Parrales gave no explanation for his change of heart when the resolution was approved Friday night. But Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said he believed Nicaragua backed down after realising that OAS sentiment was with his government.

Mr. Gutierrez, who flew here to present his government's case, said Nicaraguan troops penetrated Costa Rican territory on May 31 and subjected a group of civil guardsmen to an "unjustifiable and criminal" attack that lasted 90 minutes.

Senate refuses to close door on CIA in Nicaragua

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate has left the door open for U.S. involvement in military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua and for the CIA to dispense aid to rebels fighting the Sandinist government.

A proposed prohibition on the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) failed 57 to 35 while the move to ban direct or indirect U.S. military involvement lost on a 62-30 vote.

Both were victories for President Reagan and came as amendments to the 1985 State Department spending bill, on which Senate leaders hope to complete action on Monday.

The Senate, controlled by President Reagan's Republican Party, also balked at prohibiting the use of U.S. funds for acts against Nicaragua that might violate international law.

The effect of the votes if they stand would be to allow Mr. Reagan more flexibility in his policy toward Nicaragua, including administering \$38 million in humanitarian aid for the rebels, called "Contras," which the Senate tentatively approved 55-42.

Liberal Democrats sought to

Former border guard tells Argentine court prisoners' ears, nails torn off

BUENOS AIRES (R) — A former Border Guard has told the trial of nine ex-junta leaders that he saw prisoners' ears and nails being torn off with pliers during the Argentine military government's "dirty war" against subversion.

Omar Torres, who was a Border Guard from 1976 to 1982, said the torture took place at a clandestine detention camp in the western province of Tucuman. He was also a guard at a secret jail in Buenos Aires known as Olimpo.

Torres said that at Olimpo he saw tortured, half-naked prisoners being loaded on to lorries. Fellow guards told him they would become "fish feed," meaning they would be dropped into the sea from planes.

In Tucuman, he said, prisoners were made to kneel in groups by a pit where soldiers had thrown fir-

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ewood and oil. They were shot through the head one by one and a fire was then lit. The executions would take place every 10 or 15 days.

The former junta members, including three ex-presidents, are on trial for the abduction, torture and murder of more than 9,000 people under military rule from 1976 to 1983.

Torres, whose evidence was some of the most damning yet from a former member of the security services, also described how the bodies of a couple in their 30s were brought to Olimpo.

Their three-year-old daughter was taken home by two of the men who had killed her parents. The father's body was burned inside an oil drum, he said.

The former Border Guard testified that he had seen General Antonio Bussi, head of army operations, such as helicopters to drop supplies to the rebels.

Republicans at first said they would accept by voice vote a seemingly non-controversial amendment prohibiting the use of U.S. funds to underwrite activities against the Sandinists that might violate international law.

But when Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts, the chief sponsor, demanded a roll call, Republicans went against it.

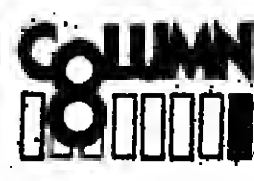
The measure passed 47 to 42, but then Republicans forced a reconsideration on a 48 to 42 vote.

The State Department said Friday the United States had agreed to a Costa Rican request to speed up the supply of arms following border clashes with Nicaragua forces.

In a statement, it confirmed "that the Costa Rican authorities have come to us and asked if we could expedite deliveries of security assistance material that is already in the pipeline."

"We are being responsive to their request," the statement said without giving details.

Press reports have said the arms in question include M-60 and M-90 machine guns.



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